The **EVE**

the long weekend



Percentages: Facts, figures and fantasy the magazine

called

The following Early Day Mo-tion, poblished yesterday, was tabled by Denis MacShane

and 10 Labour colleagues. Conduct of the Right Honourable Member for

Cherisey and Walton and

That this house condemns the continuing political support from the Conservative party and its former Vice-Chair, the

Right hooourable Member

for Chertsey and Walton, for

the Albaman regime's leader,

Sali Berisha, whose support

videspread financial ruin for

for financially deregulated pyramid schemes has led to

that British diplomatic and

ruling Democratic Party, as

well as for the Democratic

Party itself may have led to violations of the Vienna

Convention on the use of

diplomatic bags as well as

complicity in arms dealing with Rwaoda and

Afghanistan; calls for

examination of artefacts

Tirana given as gifts to the

ministers by Sali Berisha in

Westminster Conservative

apologists for the Berisha

Association not to allow its

thought to be from the

independent expert

1994; and urges the

address to be used by

trade support for the

Gangsters' Whitehall link



Regime propped up with UK aid

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Whitehall gave diplomatic and trade aid to the "gangster state" of Albania as part of a policy that helped to prop up the criminal regime, it was alleged in the Commons vesterday. Labour MPs have put down

a Commons motion and ques-tions suggesting that Foreign Office diplomatic hags may have been improperly used to send political material to Al-

Links between the crumbling regime, the Conservative Party and the Foreign Office have been drawn

hania, io possible violatioo of international conventions.

Links between the crumbling regime, the Conservative Party, the Foreign Office and the Prime Minister were drawn by Labour MP Dennis MacShaoe in a scries of Commons questions, a motion and a speech that all carry privileged protection from libel action.

The Independent reported yesterday that Britain had helped the Albanian governmeot in spite of iotelligence warnings of complicity and involvement in drug-smuggling. gun-running, sanctions-busting and money-laundering.

But in the Commons vesterday, Rotherham MP Mr Mac-Shane and 10 backbench colleagues used a motion to crit-British diplomatic and irade support" for Shqiponja a company allegedly run by Al- own Prime Minister" and had

hania's ruling Democratic Par-ty and involved in smuggling – and for the Vefa holding company, which ran ooe of the pyramid sales schemes and hich also has links with the

ruling party. The motion also claimed that official British support for the regime "may have led to violations of the Vienna Conventioo on the use of diplomatic bags as well as complicity in arms dealing with Rwanda and

Iti a separate question, Mr MacShane put down a written Commons question to the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, asking: "What repre-sentations he has received about the use of the diplomatic bag to convey party political propaganda?" Independent expert exami-

natioo was urged in the motion for "artefacts thought to be from the National History Museum of Tiraoa giveo as gifts to the Prime Minister and other ministers by [Presideot] Sali Berisha in 1994."

Mr Berisha, who attended the Conservative Party conference in 1991, made a state visit to London in 1994, but Number 10 said last night that John Major had been given a "fake hlunderbuss'

A Foreign Office spokes-woman said the theo Foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, was thought to have been given a "coffee set", which had since heen disposed of, by an unknown Albaoian minister io August 1992, but a full list of Alhanian gifts for Foreign Office ministers could not he found yesterday.

In an impromptu Commons speech, during a dehate on a Private Member's Bill - the Jurisdiction (Conspiracy and Incitement) Bill, which would allow prosecutions for crimes which are plotted in Britain but committed abroad - Mr Mac-Shanc said Presideot Berisha was "the political godson of our



John Major meets the Albanian president, Sall Benisha, in March 1994

beed at Tory conferences with Mr Major.

As for alleged Tory links with the Berisha regime, the motioo condemned "the contioning political support from the Conservative Party and its former vice-chair, the Right Honourable Member for Chertsey and Walton" - Sir Geoffrey Pattie MP. Sir Geoffrey, a former minister who is non-executive chairman of GEC Marconi, was out of the country and un-

available for comment yesterday. The motion also urged "Westminster Conservative Association not to allow its address to be used by apologists for the Berisha regime". A receot letter to The Times, extolling the husiness opportunities in Alhania, carried a Westminster address that coincides with the offices of the Cities of London

and Westminster Conservative In yesterday's debate, Mr

MacShane said: "President Sali Berisha has appeared on Conservative Party conferences with

the Prime Minister." President Berisha's Democ ratic Party was widely regarded as "a gangster organisation". linked to arms dealing, drug dealing and smuggling historic artefacts from the national museums of Albania, said the

Labour MP. This gaogster state and Photograph: UPPA

very strong links with, and indeed have the patronage of, the Conservative Party," he added.

Mr MacShane said he hoped arms-to-Iraq inquiry chairmao Sir Richard Scott would hold a public inquiry "into the behav-iour of the gangster state of Al-bania and its political support in this country". Then it might be a question of prosecutions being made under powers in the Bill, he said.

Murky links, page 3

QUICKLY

youths of the murder of Stephen Lawrence after an inquest jury found the student was unlawfully killed in a racist

Major takes long view John Major told a Welsh Con-

servative rally that Labour's

proposals would result in a

quagmire of coostitutional

change which threatened a

thousand years of British his-

Banking on a bonus The 82,500 staff at Lloyds TSB

could pick up £2,500 each fol-

lowing the bank's record prof-

Pages 3 and 20

attack_

Row over Lawrence Lawyers accused The Daily Mail of setting a dangerous precedent by accusing five white

FRONT Early day PAGE motion

The Independent introduces a new section,

MEDIA+

Whether you are a bombarded civilian, a professional communicator or a wannabe (hungry for page after page of appointment ads) you miss it

at your peril. Alhanians; expresses concern Shaiponia and VEFA holding company, linked to Albania's National History Museum of

A Compaq server under £1000. (From £995 to be precise.)

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COMPA



Compulsory car-free estates put motorists on road to nowhere

Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

Car-free estates, once a plank of communist social planning, are now seen as the last word in traffic solutions. Tenants of new housing estates in the cenrral London borough of Camden will be banned from owning vehicles, if plans by councillors arc approved later this year. Under the council's scheme,

new tenants would be prohibited from keeping a car within the borough boundaries as a condition of their tenancy Similar plans are being tout-

in Europe to curb congeson. The largest car-free estate, in Bremen, Germany, is near-ing completion and its developers point out that the benefits include "better air quality, reduction of the noise level and more green space.

Under Camden's new rules. developers would be banned from including off-street parking in their plans. Residents would risk eviction if they owned a car while living in a carfree zone and new tenants would not be issued with parking permits.

The move, if implemented, is one of the most radical and-congestion strategies in the country. The council is committed to

school roll, the council de-manded that the oumber of ourneys made by parents in cars be cut by 30 per cent. "It is an experimental, radi-

cal plan. We have one or two housing associations that have already expressed an interest in huilding car-free develop-ments," said John Thane, chairman of the council's streets and transport committee, "Hardly anyone needs a car in the central areas because they have got so much public transport and can walk to so many

Motoring organisations gave the proposals a cautious wel-ough. When a local private come. "Many people want to

school asked to increase its use their cars for shopping and visiting people at the week end and they should be given some consideration," said Edmund King, a spokesman for the

The RAC points out that resideots in Edinburgh have a scheme wherehy they give up their cars and rent a council car instead when they require

Green campaigners said it cur free estates would become the norm "in the near future". "Loodon is exactly the kind of place where these places would work. The city has a good public transport system and walking is always an option."

DIFFICULT TO GIVE UP YOU CAX-YES LOVED JOIN THE

Testing the 3Rs New primary school teachers will have to pass spelling, gram-

Commentary, page 21

IF YOURE

FINDING IT

Letters19 Obituaries18

mar and maths lests before startiog work. PEPS special TV & Radio32

significant shorts

Mayhew to consider new inquiry into Bloody Sunday

John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, and relatives of some of the victims of Bloody Sunday have presented what they say is striking new evidence about the tragedy to Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew.

Mr Hume said after the 20-minute meeting with Sir Patrick that he hoped there would be a fresh inquiry into the 13 killings in Derry of 25 years ago. Sir Patrick bad agreed to study the evidence, which included eyewitness testimony showing that the Army was shooting live ammunition into Derry's Bogside, post-mortem examination notes, recordings of Army radio messages and a copy of recent Channel 4 oews reports.

"This was a very significant meeting. It was brief and to the point. We presented a substantial volume of material, which the families know very well is new evidence," Mr Hume said.

Nigeria in row over jailed Briton

A diplomatic row erupted last night after Nigeria failed to release a Briton held without charge in the African state for over six weeks. The Foreign Office has confirmed that Bruce Henderson will not be released, despite assurances yesterday from the Nigerian government of no case against him. "We are extremely disappointed and have vigorously protested to the acting Nigerian High Commissioner in London," a spokesman said. No explanation has been given for the 42-year-old Scot's detention

Firm wins £60m Nimrod deal

A £60m contract to build advanced flight simulators to train the crews of Britain's new Nimrod 2000 maritime patrol aircraft has been won by a West Sussex-based firm, it was announced yesterday. The aircraft are to be built by British Aerospace for service early in the next century to hunt submarines and surface vessels and carry out search-and-rescue mercy missions at sea. The simulators from Thomson Training and Simulation of Crawley will be installed at RAF Kinloss in Scotland, between 2001 and 2004 to coincide with the arrival of the new Nimrods.

Greenpeace in solar 'raid'on DoE



The environmental protest group Greenpeace yesterday attached 20 square metres of solar panels to the Department of the Environment's new central London headquarters in a dawn raid yesterday. The move was intended to highlight how Government is failing to support non-polluting solar power, which Greenpeace wants to see taking over from fossil fuels. Greenpeace said it would give the £7,000 worth of panels to the Government free

of charge, and also connect them up to the building's electricity supply at no cost. But the Environment Secretary, John Gummer (left), said his new headquarters already had many environment-friendly features, including a pollution and energy saving combined heat and power system. Solar panels had been rejected by the Department's experts, but his officials would oow discuss with Greenpeace donating the electricity-generating panels to a housing charity. He congratulated the pressure group "for keeping these issues at the top of the agenda".

Nicholas Schoon

Boxing clever for birds

Nest boxes could sooo be appearing oo mobile telephone masts as ornithologists bid to boost Britain's dwindling bird population.

Launching its first "National Nest Box Week", the British Trust for Ornithology wants businesses and schools - as well as bouseowners - to install places were birds can nest. It says modern farming and countryside management has left them with a serious shortage of oatural holes to creep ioto. Trust director Jeremy Greenwood explained: "There are fewer hedgerows, trees are not allowed to get old and rot any more. If we don't find new holes for birds to nest in there will be many fewer of them - it's as simple as that. The answer is oest boxes. The phooe firm Cellnet is one of the companies that has agreed

to help by putting boxes oo transmission masts. Bri also agreed to put boxes at its productioo sites.

British truckers caught in blockade

More than 100 British lorry drivers were still caught up in the increasingly-violent Spanish truckers' dispute last night.

One Scottish driver, a grandfather of seven, spoke yesterday of running battles between police and pickets and of how he had been threatened with violence if he attempted to move his lorry. "There have been a lot of clashes involving police and pickets oear where I have been stopped," said lorry driver Norman MacDonald, 61, of Carnwath, near Lanark, who has been halted near Lerida in Spain. "I have been told that if I try to move, my windscreen will be smashed. The Freight Transport Association has written to the Department of Transport urging officials to seek European Commission belp to end the dispute.

Police install CCTV monitors Surveillance cameras have been fitted in a police prisoner transport

van for the first time and at a station as part of pilot scheme aimed at preventing violence and false allegations by suspects and officers.

The closed-circuit television cameras have been installed at Brixton police station in south London, and the Metropolitan police are planning to extend the pilot later this year to three other divisions. Sixteen colour CCTVs will be fitted in the custody suite and station yard in Brixton, along with four microphones in the charge room area. The move follows recommendations made after the death in custody of Wayne Douglas in December 1995. Jason Bennett Jason Bennetto

Police chief in racism row

A police superintendent hranded a racist by an industrial tribunal has been moved from personnel duties. Strathelyde Police said

The force has also called in an assistant chief constable from Tayside, James MacKay, to carry out an investigation of issues

arising from the tribunal finding.

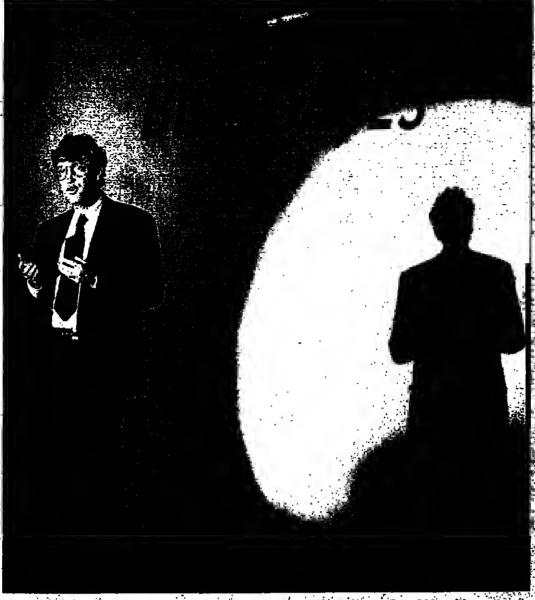
The move follows a ruling on Wednesday that PC Lawrence Ramadas, 32, from Thoon, was discriminated against by Supt Cordon McPhetaen on the grounds of his race. The claims were denied by the superintendent who said he was "deeply, deeply of and det" at any allocation that he had regist tendences. ofended" at any allegation that he had racist tendencies.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Bill Gates: The high priest of the digital age continues to confound his critics

Mr Microsoft's Midas touch puts him on top of the world

time, the unstoppable wealth creation machine that is William Henry Gates III has become, by many estimates, the richest man in the world. In 1996 he made at least £18.5m per day. Since the New Year, as the share price of his global software empire, Mi-: crosoft, has soared even higher, his personal fortune has ballooned accordingly and is now reckoned to be... at a comprehensive, off-the pag business softwi there in the vicinity of \$20bn.

Yet for someone who embodies the digital age, whose deas have influenced an entire generation of climputerliterate youngsters academics and businessmen - and whose products are used in 80 per cent of all the personal computers in the world - the essence of the man remains elusive. Like the other self-made billionaires with whom he is now endlessly compared, Harvard's most celebrated drop-out values his privacy, rarely. granting interviews and choosing to live and work in the relative obscurity of Seattle, Washington, rather than

At Microsoft's campus style headquarters, where the ate set up by Steven Spielberg, no small success in ult of Bill is adopted by employees with quasi- his own field. cult of Bill is adopted by employees with quasireligious fervour, he is described (according to Time magazine), in the language of his medium. He has, it is said, "incredible processing power", "unlimited bandwidth" and "an agility at parallel processing". He is said the commercial potential of the Internet, and has been computers and a potent blend of drive and competition. The industry have argued that Gates underestimated the commercial potential of the Internet, and has been forced into a humiliating catch-up. In addition, Microsoft's market position has already meant several tiveness. But that, say friends and associates, is only part of the story. Whatever it is that makes him tick.

ne day, he says, he'll give it all away. In the mean-time, the unstoppable wealth creation machine been impressively consistent throughout the past two

Given the near-hysteria that greeted the launch of Microsoft's Windows 95 PC operating system; it's a fair bet that Gates's mighty marketing machine will ensure a similar result for Office 97, the latest attempt package - on the shelves of a store near you later this year. In the meantime, the man has broadened his horizons still further...

With such a dominant position in the software market, he might be forgiven for sitting back and enjoy-ing his good fortune. But Gates clearly has other ideas. Aiready, Microsoft is muscling in on the TV business. having launched a cable and online news channel in partnership with NBC - the US broadcasting giant and the stated aim of becoming a credible rival to CNN.
And as if to Westrate the means about birds of a feather, Gates is closely involved in Dreamworks SKG, an equally ambitious film and entertainment conglomer-

Still, this drive to diversify betrays a suspicion that run-ins with US anti-trust authorities and the threat of more to come. Watch this space.

BBC sued over collapse of Dr Who deal

The BBC is being aued for £14m after it allegedly reneged on a deal for a feature film version of Dr Who starring Alan Rickman. Three film-makers lodged a writ in the High Court yesterday claiming that the BBC had "blatantly breached" undertakings with tham by going ahead and making its own Dr Who television movie with Universal, which was shown last May.
The Deltenreys, a consortium of

three film-makers including the singer Bryan Ferry and John Illsley of the band Dire Straits, are demanding £1m in compensation and £13m for lost potential profits. They say they had planned to

make three big-screen versions of Dr Who and were poised to an-nounce their film project when the BBC went ahead with a different television movie. They had lined up Alan Rickman to star as the Doctor and had hired Leonard Nimoy - Star Trek's Mr Spock - to

The BBC, however, claims that it made its movie after the film rights, which had been licenced to the Daltenreys in 1987, finally expired - having been extended several times at the consortium's

But the Daltenreys argue that to raise money for their film project



the principal consortium members, George Dugdale, John Humphreys and Peter Litten, took out second mortgages and spent their own savings.

Mr Humphreys said yesterday: "The simple fact is that we have been ruined by the BBC. They have behaved in a way that even now we find unbeliev

Yesterday the BBC pledged to fight the consortium. A spokeswoman said: "We will vigorously contest any legal action. They had the rights from us but even with an extended period of time could not get the production off the ground. The rights reverted to the BBC." Marianne Macdonald

Woman repeats havoc at courts with fake gun

A woman who caused chaos by pointing a plastic gun at three Court of Appeal judges on Thursday walked back into the same London courts building yesterday, waving the weapon.

The gun was loaded with plastic pellets and it was believed tha weapon was fired as sha was tackled by police and court officials. The woman, who has not been named, was immediately detained by security guards as she walked through the security barrier of the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand in central London. Within 15 minutes of he arrest, the woman, handcuffed at the wrists and ankles, was taken to Charing Cross police station where she was likely to be charged with firearms offences.

The woman's first visit to the courts at lunchtime on Thursday prompted a rapid police response, but despite a thorough search, she was not found. Security guards were on high alert vesterday in anticipation of her returning to the courts. Shortly after lunch, she walked through the front entrance, brandishing the gun and shouting: "I want to see a judge."

She is believed to be distraught after losing a custody battle in the family division of the High Court.

Life-support machines offer hope against meningitis

A special type of life support technique could rescue meningitis victims from the brink of death, doctors at Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, said yesterday. The system, known as extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) uses a modified heart-lung machine which temporarily takes over the functions of the heart and lungs. Keeping the body alive artificially buys time for the disease to resolve itself and damaged organs to recover.

Doctors studying ECMO gathered information on 12 meningococcal patients, aged between four months and 18 years, who had received the therapy in Australia and the UK since 1989.

They had been chosen for ECMO because they had heart or

lung failure and had not responded to conventional treatment. Of the twelve, eight survived, and six suffered no long-term adverse effects. Of the four patients who died, two were brain-dead and the families of the other two asked for ECMO to be withdrawn because blood supply failure meant it would have been necessary

Writing in the medical journal the Lancet, Dr Allan Goldman and colleagues said they did not think any of the patients would have lived without ECMO.

SOCIETY

Curse of townies destroys rural life

Successful townies who move house to the country were yesternia accused by a Government adviser of destroying the village life they aspire to. Richard Wakeford, chief executive of the Countryside numission, said incomers were more likely to wave at each other commission, said incomers were more alkely to wave at each other from their luxury cars than gossip outside the village shop.

"People are spending money in superstores while bemoaning the loss of traditional greengrocers and butchers' shops. They then criticise the loss of rural bus services that they have never used, "Mr Wakeford said in a speech to the Royal Town Planning Luxuities."

The inability to throw off urban lifestyles was turning thriving villages into virtual dormitories for the big towns and cities, he said. The Government estimates 4.4 million new homes need to be built over the next 20 years. Aimost half could be in the country, but with their easy mobility the new green wellie brigade may in even save the village pub.



PUBLIC SERVICES

Inequality in fire service

Fire officers came under attack vesterday for alleged racial prejudice after union officials revealed that only I per cent of brigade employees come from ethnic minorities and that only one firefighter in Scotland is black.

Ken Cameron, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, also calculated that fewer than 1 per cent of firefighters are women. While some of his members "bring their prejudices to work", middle and senior management had to bear responsibility.

Mr Cameron called on chief fire officers and local authorities to join the union's campaign to end racism, bullying, sexism and homopbobia in the fire service.

Sitting tight when Saturday comes

Hospital beds in the Irish Republic may remain unnecessarily occupied on Saturdays because of superstition, the results of a study showed yesterday. Many patients would refused to leave on the final day of the week after completing their treatment, and doctors would agree to delay discharging them, according to a survey at a hospital in Dublin, the Irish capital.

"The superstition implies that leaving hospital on a Saturday means bad luck, and will lead to early re-admission," reported Dr

Elizabeth Keane, of Ireland's Institute for Research on Ageing. "Of the 200 patients we interviewed, 13.7 per cent said they would refuse point-blank to go home on a Saturday. And 46 per cent of doctors said they would allow patients to stay that extra day because that superstition."

Dr Keane added: "This must have a profound effect on the conomics and overall management of health services." The superstition is thought to be based on the expression "Saturday flit, short sit", which the study group found was recognised by many patients and medical staff.

ASTRONOMY

Universe bigger than was thought

Dramatic results from a European star-mapping satellite may force astronomers to accept that the universe is 10 per cent bigger than they previously thought. Early results from the Hipparcos satellite also look set to resolve one of the bottest debates in astronomy the thorny question of the universe's age. According to findings released yesterday, the age of the oldest

stars is about 11 billion years, much younger than was previously believed. One of the most perplexing problems facing astronomers is the fact that the universe appears to be younger than the oldest stars in it.

The most recent calculations based on the rate at which the universe is expanding put it at between nine and 12 billion years old. But until now the oldest stars were estimated to be more than 14 billion years old.

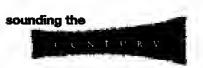
If the Hipparcos findings are confirmed by later analysis of data sent back by the satellite the paradox will be resolved. The age of the universe and its oldest stars will be about the same.



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

BBC RADIO 3 CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF GREAT MUSIC.



FROM NOW UNTIL THE END OF THE CENTURY, RADIO 3 HIGHLIGHTS THE COMPOSERS WHO REFLECT THE VITALITY AND RANGE OF 20TH CENTURY MUSIC. 'SOUNDING THE CENTURY' BEGINS WITH PIERRE BOULEZ CONDUCTING STRAVINSKY'S 'RITE OF SPRING'. TOMORROW AT 7.30PM.



Details emer**se**

of muray links between Britain and Albanian government

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ason Bennetto Orme Correspondent

Leading lawyers accuracy national newspaper of acting indge and pury vesterday a it took the unprecedented a of calling five unconverted a murderers and publishing il photographs In a Iront-page story

Joung men of killing Step Lawrence, the black stand and a chancenged them to if they thought that the ter paper was wrong. The allegation following redict of unlawful killing a conner's jury that took cursordinary step of addition that the murder of Lawre le who was stabled to dear

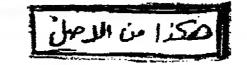
abus stop in south-cast Lon in 1993, was "a completely promised racist attack by white youths." The five men who were cused by the Mail. David? in 20, brothers Neil Action and Jamie Account, 19, r Dobon, 1, and Luke Ko

Mall from outh-east least have already faced a pr and private crimunal pressures for the murder, but buth a collapsed. All free refuses

The police and legal me have come under strack failing to convict Lawren Lawyers are angry at Lawyers are angry at the men of marder, bee they believe it is a day become that will exert that he menden that will exert that he menden that will exert that he menden reserve.

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On the scrapheap: A people robbed of their dignity while their leaders prosper

Details emerge of murky links between Britain and Albanian government

Andrew Gumbel

In the early summer of 1992, a meeting was held in the Dajti Hotel in Tirana that included a Foreign and Commonwealth Office employee visiting from London and a British adviser to the Albanian presidency called William Bennett. The man from the FCO came with a number of heavy cardboard packing cases sealed with plastic ribbon.

"These are the things you have been expecting," he told Mr Bennett. "Just make sure nobody knows where they came from."

The scene was witnessed by Alex Standish, a freelance business consultant and journalist. He watched one of the boxes being opened and saw that it was full of stickers advertising Alhania's ruling Democratic Party. According to Mr Standish, the stickers had been produced in Britain for the local elections that took place in June 1992 and hrought out under diplomatic cover.

That raises the possibility of two breaches of law. First, a violation of the Vienna Convections on the use of diplomatic hags, and secondly the illegal participation of foreigners in an Alhanian election campaign

The episode is one of several murky links between Britain and the government of Albania now emerging, following the collapse of several pyramid investment schemes believed to be connected to both organised crime rackets and the ruling order in Tirana. Mr Bennett, who now works as a barrister in London, was the first of two British nationals who gained unparalleled access as advisers to President Sali Berisha in the first two years of his tenure in office in 1992-93.

Both Mr Bennett and his successor Guy Roberts were promoted by the Westminster Foundatioo for Democracy, a right-wing organisation active in emerging free societies that has close ties to the Conservative Party. At the time, Mr Bennett was the only foreigner allowed into the Preside of sinner circle – an arrangement that was looked oo with disapproval by a number of Western diplomatic missions.

tic missions. Ar Bennett's position un



cking up the pieces: Albanians scramble for usable rubbish on a tip in Tirana as their country totters under political repression and violence

derscored the cosy relations being developed directly betwee the Conservatives and the Democratic Party – relations that appear to have had a significant bearing on British policy as the Albanian government hecame more autocratic and corrupt over the following years.

corrupt over the following years.
Foreign Office officials subsequently posted to Tirana have – in commoo with their counterparts from other European Union countries – told visiting journalists until very recently that the country was progressing nicely on the path to democracy and a free-market economy, that the Democratic Party was popular, and that any corruption was merely a hiccup on the road to prosperity after half a century of brutal communist isolationism.

The fact that this line was peddled eveo by diplomats

known privately to have quite different views on the corrupt, criminal mess that Albania was turning into, suggests there was a specific policy to paint the Berisha government in the best possible light,

Foreign Office statements in the past year have protested at the more blatant violations of political and personal freedoms, and Britain has been less gung-ho in its pro-government sympathies than some of its European partners, but the overall sense of sympathy for the Berisha regime has remained intact.

With Albania beset by street violence and political repression in the wake of the collapse of shady pyramid investment schemes, the policy followed by Britain and the rest of the EU has visibly crumbled. Yesterday, in response to *The Independent's*

assertions that the West largely ignored warnings of collusion between the Albanian government and organised crime, the Foreign Office appeared keen to be on the side of the angels. It said it "refuted the suggestion of unconditional support for the Albanian government" and ac-

knowledged Tirana's "far from

perfect record oo democracy

aod human rights" - some-

thing its officials in the field have

not chosen to dwell oo.

Diplomatic sources have acknowledged a lack of political reporting from the Tirana embassy. British officials have asked questions receotly about the status of the ambassador, Andrew Tesoriere, who has been in place for a year and is

Opposition figures and intellectuals in Albania have

currently oo an extended mid-

tour leave of absence.

complained that the British mission has paid them and their views scant attention in recent months, preferring to keep close to the government and develop the potential for commercial opportunities first and for more

It is not clear if Mr Tesoriere's superiors have been dissatisfied with him, or if he has been doing their hidding all along but policy priorities are now undergoing rapid changes. Britain's mission in Albania is

soriere's tiny, especially by comparison satisfied with those of Italy and the undoing United States, the two biggest foreign players whose own record has heen far from unblameted.

Leading article, page 19

IN TOMORROW'S

Five sections for the best in news, features, sport, city and business, travel, property, and money



FROM L.A. TO M.P.
Why did Glenda Jackson
swap the glamour of
Hollywood for the nuts
and bolts of Labour's
transport policy?
Marianne Macdonald
finds out

business

SEE YOU IN COURT
David Bowen on how
small-town injuries in the
USA can cause grievous
bodily harm to
foreign investors

sport

STATE OF THE ART Emanuel Steward, the man who trained Oliver McCall and Lennox Lewis, talks boxing with Harry Mullan

iravel&money

COSTA BRAVO!
The Mediterranean
esorts that aren't as bad
as you think

Treal life

A MALE MANIFESTO

If the future really
is female, then what
next for men?

IT IS. ARE YOU?

Daily Mail stands by Lawrence case charges

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

Leading lawyers accused a national newspaper of acting as judge and jury yesterday after it took the unprecedented step of calling five unconvicted men murderers and publishing their photographs.

In a front-page story the Daily Mail accused the five young men of killing Stephen Lawrence, the hlack student, and it challenged them to sue if they thought that the newspaper was wrong.

The allegation followed a verdict of "unlawful killing" by a coroner's jury that took the extraordinary step of adding that the murder of Lawrence, 18, who was stabbed to death at a bus stop in south-east London in 1993, was "a completely unprovoked racist attack by five white youths".

The five men who were ac-

The five men who were accused by the Mail, David Norris, 20, brothers Neil Acourt, 21 and Jamie Acourt, 19, Gary Dobson, 21, and Luke Knight, 20, all from south-east London, have already faced a public and private criminal prosecution for the murder, but both cases collapsed. All five refused to give evidence at the coroner's court.

The police and legal system have come under attack for failing to convict Lawrence's killers.

Lawyers are angry at the Daily Mail's decision to accuse the men of murder, hecause they helieve it is a dangerous precedent that will encourage "trial by newspapers", and because it makes a mockery of the legal system.

They also argued that be-

They also argued that because people taking libel cases are not entitled to legal aid, it would make it too expensive for most members of the public to try and challenge newspaper allegations of this type. Jonathan Cainer: How you can find your Valentine

The Mail accuses these men of killing. If we are wrong, let them sue us

Headline news: The front page of yesterday's Mail, its editor Paul Dacre (below left) and Stephen Lawrence



Nigel Pascoe QC, chairman of the Bar Council's Public Affairs Committee, said: "What happened to Stephen Lawrence is a vile and wicked killing carried out by evil racists." But he added: "I believe this [allegation] is a watershed, from new-papers offering critical hard hitting comment to being occusers, and judge and jury.

"This is a dangerous prece-

"This is a dangerous precedent and could lead to other newspaper making similar accusations and simply saying



'sue us' - something most people cannot afford. It's a slippery slope and could lead to

Cooservative MP Roger Gale, chairman of the Conservative back beoch Media Committee, told BBC Radio 4's World at One: "I think this is tabloid journalism at its worst because it's trial by newspaper."

But on the same programme Peter Wright, the Daily Mail's deputy editor, denied the paper was acting like a "kangaroo court" and said: "We have invited them to put up a defence. So far they have failed."

Lawyers representing the five white men named by the Daily Mail are believed to be considering legal action.

ering legal action.

A solicitor representing one of the men said: "Anything's possible. If we decide to do it you will know about it."

A spokeswoman for the Attorney General said that the Mail had not committed a crime

and that it was up to the five people who had been named to decided whether they want to pursue a libel case.

Lawyers for Lawrence's family are currently preparing to bring a civil action against the five men claiming damages, in an action similar to the one which was brought against OJ Simpson in the United States.

charged with Lawrence's murder.

However, according to the Southwark coroner Sir Monlague Levine, "a wall of silence and fear", preventiog witnesses coming forward harm-

Over the last four years all

five have at various times been

witnesses coming forward, hampered a successful prosecution.

A case against two of the youths was abandoned by the Crown Prosecution Service in July 1993 when it ruled that there was insufficient evidence to secure convictions.

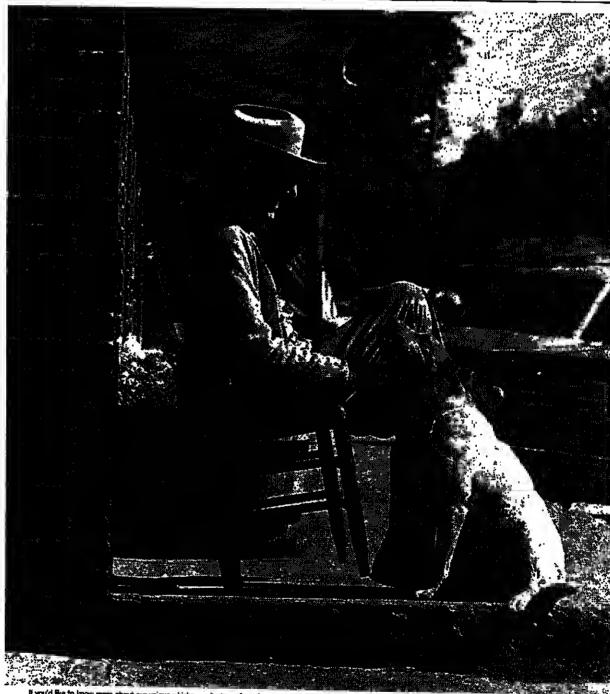
The CPS decision to drop that criminal prosecution prompted the Lawrence family to lau och a rare private case against the five young men.

After the private prosecution was launched, two of the five were discharged by a magistrate at the committal hearing and never stood trial.

The remaining three were

Bailey last April, after a judge ruled that evidence from a friend of Lawrence who witnessed the attack, was unsafe. Saturday Story, page 20

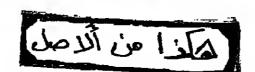
formally acquitted at the Old

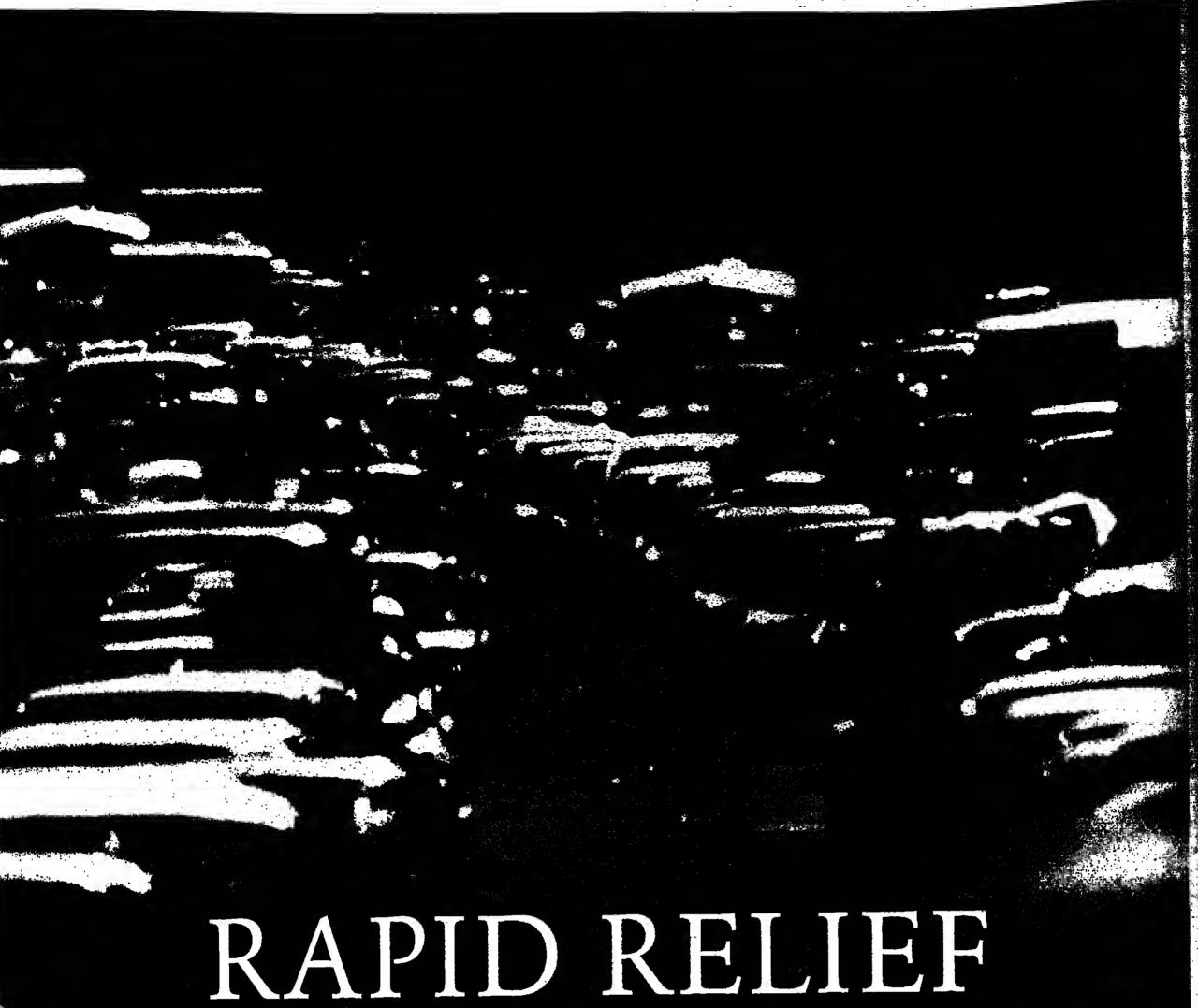


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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY





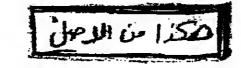
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Clare Garner

Nothing ventured, noth gained. That was the motiv hundreds of lonely hearts v pitched up at the New Co naught Rooms in central La don severala to melitant for new series of Blind Plate. Valentine might h tailed to deliver, but Cil leferbull array was right to

get. Ther meaninging three unpromusing post bags, and ing an unconstent shirth self-esteem and melalging quick, memoralitie sails hold hearted itempert off tackle the problem head or The daling thank opinion

Ham and no appending needed Eighteen-plus = 1 Single - hig tack Would your fively, a love taline. Pink the

a serious attempt to matel lick, lich work, "I dicto's ge flowers no nothing, be may

Major launches crusade to save constitution

Fear of the unknown, the risk of change, and the threat to "a thousand years of British history" were yesterday presented by John Major as Lahour's stark alternative for voters.

The Prime Minister lold a Welsh Conservative rally in Holywell, North Wales: "We either stick to the people and policies that are bringing success and progress, or we risk it."

In the next few weeks, Mr Major said, the country faced a choice in an election. "It can change direction, veer off into the unknown, import new ways, and take a hammer and chisel to our constitution.

"Or it can choose the tried and trusted path we are on - a path bringing prosperity for more people as day succeeds day. We offer progress, not reckless change." That mes-sage, he said, would ensure Conservative victory.

But with Mr Major gearing himself up for an inquisitorial role against Tony Blair in next Thursday's Commons debate on the constitution. Opposition leaders reacted scornfully to yesterday's speech.

Paddy Ashdown. Leader of the Liberal Democrats, said: "This is a desperate attempt by the Conservative Party to cling on to power by clinging to

the past.
"Mr Major's extraordinary case seems to be that everything's fine, that there's nothing wrong with politics ... The fact is that the British constitution is strong, and has lasted this thousand years, precisely he-



Old guard: Tory supporters at the Welsh Conservative Conference in Holywell, yesterday, at which Mr Major denounced Labour policy on the constitution

modernise it, put it back in contact with its people."

said the Tories' only constitu- one, cut off from the interests tional proposal was a defence of ordinary people, with their of the power of hereditary peers thousand-year-old powers, peo-

every generation have had to to make law, something Labour would abolish.

"So while hereditary peers For Labour, John Prescott are left, unaccountable to any-

to be deprived of a greater say in how their countries are to

Portraying Labour as gloom-

ple in Wales and Scotland are Major said that Britain had a tease, that it remains in the Consmile on its face; it was the success story of Europe.

Repeating a refrain of his speech, he said that it became mongers, people who prayed for more obvious "as day succeeds if the country stuck with the

servative interest to hold off the

The Prime Minister said that

live", with more choice m eduelection until the latest available date: 1 May.

cation; more services offered by National Health Service GPs; more sporting, cultural and artistic "fruits of the Lotrain when the sun shone, Mr day" - yet another hint, or Tories, they could make Britain tery"; more jobs and better

Labour government that offered as a priority a return to the "quagmire" of constitutional

After 18 years of planning, in Opposition, Mr Major said that Labour policy was "peppered with so many holes that it makes a sieve look water-tight", adding: "They still cannot answer the most hasic questions about their priorities in government."

Mr Major then dug into the detail of the key questions he would be putting to Mr Blair in

6 We can import new ways and veer off into the unknown, or choose the tried and trusted path we are on 7

next week's Commons debate. and warned: "Labour would throw a bone to the yapping dogs of Welsh and Scottish separatism in the vain hope they might then follow Labour.

They would gerrymander Britain and play party politics with our nation for pure polit-

ical advantage. "A thousand days of Labour government could ditch a thousand years of British history. It's a poor bargain. Better

A lesson in history for the Prime Minister

Louise Jury

Baffled academics yesterday questioned the Prime Minister's grasp of Britain's past after he suggested devolution would destroy "a thousand years of

"It's a totally incomprehen-sible remark," said Dr Paul Addison of Edinhurgh University vesterday. Wales was united with Eng-

land only in the 16th century and, for most of the 1,000 years. Scotland was an independent country and Scotland and England were fighting each other. "It's very hard to understand what he means, unless he means English history. Britain is less than 300 years old as a country, since the Act of Union in 1707.

Arguably the Tories had already come close to leaving British history behind when

they signed up to the Common Market, Dr Addison argued. They put ao end to it by abandoning most of British sover-

Spending any time in Scotland made one immediately conscious of how ignorant English politicians could be. "But surely he can't be that ignorant? He'll just have to go back and sit his O-

levels again," Dr Addison said.
Dr John Roberts, formerly
the bead of Merton College, Oxford, whose most recent work was A History of Europe, said the Prime Minister's comments did not square with the facts. "Even the conquest of Wales hadn't begun 1,000 years ago," he said. And when it came to "playing

party polities" with the nation, Dr Roherts said there was nothtween the separate nations of the

been a matter of expediency, "Il has always been in response to emergencies that the whole thing was put together," he said.

The invoking of historical argument in politics was always alarming, he added. "I guess there are a lot of people in the Tory party who do have very crude views of British history. and they like this sort of thing.

Bernard Crick, professor io political theory and biographer of George Orwell, said it was an "idiotic" reading of events. "It shows they don't know any

real history. They haven't a clue about what has happened in Ireland or Scotland, It's conjuring with a popular and wholly English distortion of history."

Even since the Act of Union, Scotland had continued to have ing new in that. The union be- a different clerical, legal, educational and local government



Love raffle: Lonely hearts complete Blind Date questionnaires Photograph: David Rose

Bold-hearted seek Cupid's arrow at a Blind Date

Nothing ventured, nothing gained. That was the motto of hundreds of lonely hearts who pitched up at the New Connaught Rooms in central London vesterday to audition for the new series of Blind Date.

St Valentine might have failed to deliver, but Cilla's televisual arrow was right on target. After rummaging through unpromising post hags, suffer- at the front. ing an intermitent slump in self-esteem and indulging in a quick, inconsolable sob, the bold-hearted trooped off to tackle the problem head-on.

The dating doors opened at Ham and no appointment needed. Eighteen-plus - tick. Single - big tick. Would you like to go on next series of Blind Date - why not? It was, effectively, a love ratfle. Pink tickets for the girls, blue for the boys.

"Blind Date is not a dating agency," say the rules, "It's not a serious attempt to match up couples with a view to marriage." But for some, it was quick, tidy work. "I didn't get no flowers, no nothing," bemoaned one tattered heart. "Oh. I'm

there," came the consoling re-ply from Norman, "When are getting married, Tiger? said the pouting 30-year-old, much made-over.

From the multiple applica-

tions of shimmery blue lipstick to the flashing how-ties and hrand new Levis, the contestants were dressed to impress. A gaggle of girls with uniform blonde highlights mocked their elderly sisters who were seated

Looking for the world as if they were hack in the hingo hall, the pensioners lined the front row. "First in the supermarket queue, first to the Blind Date audition." sniped one. "I don't think hy that age I'd care what I did." another contributed.

Some filled in their questionaire forms ferociously; others agonised for hours, as they say in the waiting room for love. Martin fell firmly into the first category. Do you smoke? "Yes. Loads of marijuana," Marital status? "Never". Done any modelling? "Yeah, lots of porn modelling." Do you have a parpiece or special talent?

Same-sex groups of eight were escorted to the next door

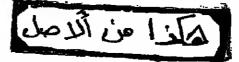
room at half-hourly intervals. In the spirit of the game, men select women and vice versa. "Why did we want to go on Blind Date?" asked a discerning Dave. "My hoyfriend dumped me and I thought: 'I'm fed up with long relationships, I just want some fun'," replied Mandy, 32.

"I was going out with this guy for seven years and he wouldn't marry mc." explained Dawn, 20. Waste of seven years if you ask me. I want three children and a hig garden." And presumably

The odds were stacked against them though. Only 150 of the 39, 850 applicants who will be interviewed at locations across the country between now and May will qualify for the next series.

James took refuge in the rules. "Some of the dates are in the British Isles, so if you are only coming on the show in the hopes of winning a trip to an exotic location, you may very well he disappointed," he read with a satisfied smile on his face. "The 150 lucky ones who make it onto the next series will only go to Brigton or Bognor any-





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"The tragedy of my work is that I could never save the people I photographed."

Don McCullin has been photographing wars and human rights disasters since 1964, when he took his camera to Cyprus, and the Congo. He has often risked his life to bring back pictures to show the world what was happening, pictures which he hoped might help to end the horrors he witnessed. In these pages, Annesty International invites Don to talk about his work and what he thinks all of us can do to help.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DON McCullin



Annesty International: working worldwide for the release of prisoners of conscience, fair trials for political prisoners and an end to torture, extra-judicial executions, "disappearances"

and the death penalty.

The Congo, 1964.

A yening man is termented and humiliated by soldiers before being shot and his body thrown into the river.

Minutes before this picture was taken, this man and others had been dragged behind trucks by ropes tied to their penises.

The first time I saw a dead body was in Cyprus. Someone had shot this old man and his two sons. They were lying in a little house, warmed by the Mediterranean sun and when I opened the door, the sweet stench of fresh blood drenched my nostrils. In the next room there was a burning straw bed and the mixture of smoke and blood have stayed with me to this day. Often, if I get near a bonfire in the garden, I'm suddenly transported into a daylight dream of murder and death.

"The dead make their own statement."

I can see that scene now: the bodies on the fluor, a woman standing there crying. It's het new husband she's louking at, they'd just got married. I'd let myself into that house quietly having knocked several times. I thought, my God, they're really going to punish me for intruding on this terrible scene but they didn't. They gave me a sign tu stay and go ahead and record it. as if they wanted people to see. They wanted a voice. The dead make their statement and my pictute records it. The dead don't choose to give their statement like that, but it's the only way left for them.

I wanted my pictures to bring messages from the dead and the neat-dead in prisons and death camps, to the test of us living. Saying 'For god's sake the something'. It's the same job Amnesty does. The world's in a worse state tnday than when I started taking pictutes and Amnesty is the unly answering service out there, picking up on those feeble cries for help.

"What's your name, soldier?"

When I take a picture I may be the eyes of the newspaper's readers, but I can't be their conscience. It's hard living with my own.

The picture on this page, I took in the Congo. My baptism was the wicked experience of seeing what was done to these young men by

mercenaries in Stanleyville, now Kisingani.

I'd disguised myself and flown up on a secret aeroplane which was bringing mercenaries in from Leopoldville, now Kinshasa. I got to the airfield at dawn. A tropical thunderstorm was just finishing, the ground was wet, it was warm and everyone was sleepy. There was a platoon of men standing in the dawn, and this Hercules revving up, waiting to go. A man eame down the line with a clipboard and said. 'What's your name soldier?' I thought, I'm in trouble now. I said 'McCullin' and he said 'Not on the list? How do you spell it?' So I spelt it and he said. 'Right, climb on.' When we got to Stanleyville there was fighting going on. We drove from the airport past a lot of dead bodies to an old hotel by the river. There was terrific commotion, coming and going, distant explosions. After ten minutes a jeep screamed into the compound and said. 'Any guys just in from Leopoldville, get down to the docks, we've got problems, the C.O. wants you over the river.

"They were dragging them by the penis."

I was carrying a little weeny camera bag with two cameras, twenty rolls of film and a meter. A mercenary came up and said 'Have you got a weapon?' I said 'No' and he said 'Well get one'. I ignored him because it was abhorrent to me to carry a weapon. I jumped on this truck with all the soldiers and got down to the docks. I was young, easily impressed and I hadn't declared myself. I kept my camera in my little bag, but my eyes were wide wide open to all that was going on around me.

Out of the corner of my eye I saw a huddled bunch of human beings, all bleeding and shaking. It was a most distressing scene. A mercenary said. Haw, you should have been up here ten minutes ago, they were dragging them around behind trucks by their penises.' He told me 'That lot are for the chop. They'll shoot them and kick them in the rivet' And I was in shock because it doesn't matter how tough you think you are, there's no kind of preparation that can get yun ready for such sorrowful things.

"It's appalling to witness a murder."

To witness people about to be killed is appalling because you see them louking at you. pleading with their eves. They sense your pity. their eyes get bigget, appealing tu you to help. to get them out of this terrifying plight and of course there is absulutely nothing you can do.

· You lose something of yourself when you · witness people dic. You walk away injured. There's a danger, since people have had so much realism from certain disgusting Hollywood directors that reportage pictures will be looked at as art. I've never considered my work art, I have watched too many people die. I've seen people murdered in front of me and I've seen public executions. You can never learn how to behave under those circumstances, because there's no way to behave, other than be outraged.

"The last air in his body was calling for God."

The old, famous cheery question is 'Do you ever help anybody? The tragedy of my work, of thirty years photographing wars and human rights disasters is that I could never save the people I photographed.

I often wept secretly, when no-one could see. Once in Beirut I saw two men standing in a stair well with their hands up, while their families were being dragged down stairs. The families were looking at the men as they came

"I've never considered my work art, I have watched too many people die."

down. I went with the families and came back just in time to see these two men being shot in cold blood at point blank range. I can never forget that one of them had an Astrakhan hat on and a kind of light raincoat, and that the other was saying Allah as he was dropping. It was as if the last air in his bndy was calling for God. I went into the staitwell and gripped the wall and said to myself, take a hold of yourself. because this is only the beginning of... of what's going to happen here today.

"They were celebrating the death of a girl."

There was a day in Beirut when they killed several hundred Palestinians. I saw some of them die, but there was no way the camera was going up to my eye because a gunman came up and said 'If you take pictures you'll be killed yourself - I suggest you leave this area.' As I left, I heard the sound of a lute being played. They were celebrating the death of a Palestinian girl about twenty years old lying in the winter mud and rain of the street. I thought my God, if I take this picture it could eost me my life. I looked over my shoulder very quickly

and furtively and thought I can't walk past this. So I whipped that camera to my eye and took one frame and hurried away and as I went I heard somebody pleading behind me, and gun fire and I turned to see an old man falling, he was shot in the stomach at point blank tange. I thought I must get out of here. You walk away from those situations and thank God you're alive, and feel guilty because somebody else paid the price for this mayhem. Next day I went back and there were mounds of corpses.

"When you think you're going to be killed..."

It's eerie, walking round a city where humanlife and human rights mean nothing. You walk round several corners and it looks normal, and then you walk round a corner and the most extraordinary things are going on - you see men being herded to their deaths. I went up to this man, a gunman from East Beirut with whom I'd spent the previous day, and I said 'What's going on with these men?'. He said 'They're going to get the ehop and I said 'No. please don't do this. The press are here, everyone can sec what you're doing, this is wrong, please. don't do this'. He said 'Listen my friend, go away, it is none of your business' and they tnok these men into the yard but I pushed my way in behind them. It had been raining and this old factory yard was all wet and damp under a weird sky. I saw one of the Palestinians Inoking at a gunman loading a fresh magazine into his rifle. I've often tried to transplant myself into that man's position. The shock of fear that goes through you when you think that you'te going to be killed is just...unthinkable. It's unthinkable. I know that from Uganda when I thought I was going to get murdered in the Makindi prison. I know what that poor man felt like seconds before he was put to death.

"I thought my God, this is the end of my life."

In Uganda, I was arrested. They came to my room and made me pack my bags. I was dragged out and chucked into a jeep and driven to the Kampala police station, which was chock-a-block with people and two or three other journalists. About seven, when the day was beginning to fade, a man in a check jacket walked into the police station - he must have been a plain clothes security man. He asked the sergeant, 'Who are these people?' And the sergeant said 'They are journalists.' He said. Journalists? They are dirty people.' I was sort of sniggering. But a few minutes later we were pushed and punched outside and squeezed into an army jeep. It sped out of the police compound up the hill and I thought 'They're going the wrong way, the airport's the other way.' They took us to the military prison at Makindi where a bunch of soldiers were drinking beer. They all grabbed sticks and rushed up shouting 'Get out of the ear, get out of the car.' We were made to sit on the floor cross legged, heads bowed and they started kicking us. Luckily they had rubber combat boots so we didn't get any broken ribs but they were whacking us with their sticks. Then they took us down into the courtvard, well inside the prison. They stood us against the wall and that's when I thought 'My God this is it,' you know, 'the end of my bloody life.' My mouth was as if someone had empried a tube of superglue in it because nothing dehydrates you quicker than fear. It completely locks your jaw.

"I lay on this mattress covered in blood."

But they took us down to some cells. We were there four days. There was a man lying on the bed. He looked in a bad way. Another man told us 'Take no notice of him, he's for the chop. He's a Tanzanian cop they caught at the bordet.' I heard the rattle of keys and marching feet and I ran and hid in this cell which had no lights. I heard them beating him. It went on and on and I heard the pleas and the screams and the thudding blows. Then they left. The



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se sreunach at point blank range et get wit of here. You walk an ituations and thank God 1001 I guilty because somebody & e for this mayben. New del I there were mounds of cope while you're going to be killed. alking round a city where here n rights mean nothing. Your corners and it looks normal e round a corner and the ne hings are going on - rousen so their deaths. I went up with a from East Beirut with the . verious day, and I said Wist these men?. He said Their he thop and I said 'No plan The press are here, evenous te doing, this is wrong ple He said Listen my friends of your business and them the sard but I pushed mr ne It had been raining asis d was all wet and damp in vone of the Palestinianske ading a fresh magazine in: tried to transplant mise. sition. The shock of ferthe when you think that alled is just unthinkale thow that from Ugandic going to get mirdered # i. I know what that poor

before he was put to det led, this is the end of my was arrested. They cancele me pack my bags le chucked into a jeep and as a police station, nhich a with people and two or # About seven, when the fade, a man in a check pa police station - he must be othes security m.m. He ak 'ho are these people.' Andeher are journalists. He si y are direy people. I was se to a few minutes later av mi hed outside and squeezed into sped out of the police and land I thought They was the airport's the other sahe military prison at Makadi f soldiers were drinking bet sticks and rushed up shound reger out of the car. Wend he floor cross legged hod started kicking us. Luckili ombat boots so we didn't a but they were whicking " Then they took us down into ell inside the prison. The the wall and that when this is it. you know, the cod My mouth was as if some a tube of superglue in a

locks your pm. ittress covered in blood. ns down to some cells. We 5. There was a man lying of Lin a bad way. Another mill notice of him, he's for the unian cop they caught at the ratile of keys and marching tiel in this cell which had no n beating him. It went en B I the pleas and the screams blows. Then they left. The

lehydrates you quicker than



man was in the most parhetic state. They'd busted his jaw and really mashed him up.

When people are beating and killing other people, there's a fear in them as if the unarmed, defenceless people they're killing can hurt them. I think a lot of people have to whip themselves up to a frenzy before they kill or torture. They look for excuses, because they know they don't have the right.

When the guards came back I fled back to the dark cell and lay on this mattress covered in piss and blood stains - which were also all up the walls - and heard them drag him out.

"I wished Amnesty knew about me."

One day they said they were releasing us, but I noticed that someooe had come and dug four shallow graves in one corner of the prison yard. I thought 'They're going to kill us after all. They're not going to let us leave, and they didn't let us go, they took us back to the cells.

In that darkness, what I wanted was anyooe - anybody - any soul in the world, any person who could reach out to me and become my voice, become my lifejacket.

I thought about Amnesty International and how I wished they could hear about me so they could try and get me out. I longed for someone to tell Amnesty that I was missing.

Next day, I don't know why, we were freed. Later, we met two guys who had been in the killing wing and we heard what went on there. The way they killed the prisoners there was that they used to lie twenty men on the floor and give the twentieth man a sledge-hammer. He would have to go along and crush the skulls of all the lying down men. Then he was thrown on the floor and one of the soldiers would finish him off.

"Who needs a ringside seat for a murder?"

When I was in a situation, seeing what was going on, I hoped my pictures would stir people up and help stop those things happening. That was the only justification for intruding on some of those fearful scenes. Who needs to have a ringside seat at a murder? Who needs to have the best sear in the house for a murder? Only the killers. Not the witness, not me.

I used to try and get rid of my own guilt by saying It's vital to get these terrible statements back to Britain'. At the Sunday Times we used to pore over them and look for the strongest pictures. We never let the readers off easily. I tried to salve my conscience by saying I am doing this to show people what they can't see for themselves. People are basically decent, they're bound to want to help. My pictures were printed in the Sunday newspapers, in the colour supplements or in the main body of the paper, but of course in the news reports there would never be any kind of exhortation for the

reader to do anything. The newspaper's job is to tell it like is and to ler the readers make their own minds up.

"I used to wash my hands in blood."

The teason I am so pleased to do this appeal for Amnesty International is because I can say the things those news reports didn't. I need to say these things. I want to get them off

Often when I came back from abroad. people would ask, 'Where have you been?' and I'd mumble Vietnam or Biafra or Beirut and they'd say 'Oh, it must have been awful,' and they'd ask a question and if I answered it, and came out with something appalling, they'd look round and say things like 'Is there any more coffee? or 'Is there any more wine?'. They'd try to get away from me. Sometimes I'd want to say Piss off and just walk away. How do you

"I ask the dead why they pester me, they say I didn't do my job properly."

talk about what you've seeo? I was a witness. I'd seen every form of barbarian behaviour that monsters can offer. I saw it all. I brought back the pictures, the evidence. Blood used to flow in my life as if there was a permanent storm raging - I used to wash my teeth and haods in blood. When someone doubts my word I sometimes think I've been living in a fantasy or a nightmare world. But I've got the pictures.

"Memories fade, like old newspapers."

When I fish out some of the old colour magazines from up in my attic and look at my pictures, I wonder, did they do any good? Did they open people's eyes, to the horror, and their responsibility.

Sometimes I think - who knows? - maybe my pictures even helped to nurture Amnesty's beginnings. I hope so, because Amnesty does wonderful work and deserves to be supported by everyone who values the freedom to read a newspaper. Like the people reading this one.

But people have to act fast, because they fade, those old newspapers. They go yellow. like memories. The people who died fade and become less real. We can no longer see them, or touch them and we forget they were once alive and breathing, just like us.

Many of the people in my pictures are taking one last look at the world. In a lot of my pictures, the victums look curious as if they see something I can't - as if they can help me - as if they think I'm the one who's the victim. If you look at the pictures closely, it's as if the dead are really trying to help. They're trying to co-operate, obviously, and what



they're saying is 'I'm dead, look at me, look at what they've done to me, please tell the world what they've done to me, so the world can do something to stop the horror.'

"I see the dead in crowds and on buses."

I think a lot about all the people who died. whose deaths I saw or photographed. I see them in the streets, on buses and trains and aeroplanes and at airports. I feel as if they're floating out there in cloudy images. I see them when I least need to see them. As I'm sitting here now, looking at the most blossom drenched garden. I can still see that vision or those men dropping in that stairwell in Beirut.

I'm surrounded by ghosts and images and things that tap me on the brain and say, 'Hey, mister, temember me?

'Remember me in the market place in Saigon when, they brought the two jeeps at dawn and stood me at a stake?

Remember me, the man they said was a bomber?

Remember me, the headless chap you saw lying by a river restaurant one night after the bomb went off. And me, the pregnant woman who was dead? And all us headless people under the tables? And me, the fellow with a sucking wound in his neck and chest that was making that terrible noise. Hev, remember us?"

I ask the dead, what do you want? They don't speak, but I think they're probably saying. You didn't do your job properly because, you know, we're still here and as you see, Don, our numbers are growing."

"Amnesty is us, and we are Amnesty."

The ghosts are right. The world is in a worse way now than it was when I began taking pictures. We must all do what we can.

That's why I hope that everyone who reads this will join Amnesty International and will

to bring hope and help to the people locked away in the prisons and dungeons. For many people who are suffering horribly at the hands of brutal men, it's the only hope there is,

Barra, 1973.

A Palestiman tamile is hasted out of their being by gunmen belanging to the Christian Phalange, In the stanwell, the near of the family are held at gropourt with their hands up

Manuals after the first pieture was taken, I rushid back only to see the rice. men sket drad at point

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I don't know how many people work for Amnesty, or how far their influence reaches, but it can never be far enough. Thousands, tens of thousands of people are in prison with noone to speak for them - most of them probably re don't even know about. There are people being degraded, tortured, killed, at this very moment. We must help.

Amnesty International can't change things on its own, it's them and us together. You can't sit back and say 'Oh well, Amnesty will work in out. We have to work it out with Amnesty. Amnesty is us, and we are Amnesty.

Amnesty is just lots of people like us. Amnesty International has no-one else to turn to but people like us. If Amnesty fails, its demise will be very convenient for all the butchers in the world. If we fail Annesty, we

"Pick up your pen and use it."

The horror will go on and on and on. It won't stop until people like us - people like you - get involved and decide to stop it. You would know this instinctively if you'd seen a man die in front of you.

When you see a man being murdered in a doorway and he is looking at you and crying, you are naked. You're naked. You don't have any feelings, you are destroyed. You don't have any implements at hand to protect this man, help this man, shield this man. One human dying in front of another is a naked experience,

You have a means to protect, help and shield the people who are at this moment being hurt, killed, or flung in blood-soaked cells. It is

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Generals say ministers have ignored Scott report.

One year on, pressure group says ministers have failed to address issues

James Cusick

An international pressure group, including General Sir Hugh Beach and Field Marshal Lord Carver and Admiral Sir James Eberle, yesterday warned that in the 12 mooths since the publication of Scott Report the Government had failed to "institute any changes which would prevent another arms-to-Iraq

affair occurring."
The group, Saferworld, representing 130 cross-party MPs, trades union leaders, military generals and bishops, claimed many of the key conclusions of Sir Richard Scott's three year inquiry, such as the need for open government, the parliamentary scrutiny of arms exports and the need for clarity in public standards to oversee export decisions, had "gone unaddressed".



ster of trade and then defence, encouraged exporters to stress the . civilian uses of their. products in export applica-tions. He was criticised by the report for giving "inac-curate and misleading" evidence to Perliament. He parliamentary candidate.

In a letter in today's Inde-pendent both General Beach and Lord Carver argue there are now "compelling military reasons for tightly regulated arms sales to regions of tension



DAVID-GORE BOOTH, of the Middle East Department of the Foreign Office should, according to Sir should, according to Sir Richard, have been con-cerned that "misleading" submissions had been prepared by junior Foreign Office officials, Mr Gore-Booth is now Pritish Mach Booth is now British High sioner in India. He was knighted this year.

and instability". They say a "boomerang effect" had re-cently resulted in European

troops facing weapons supplied

by their own governments in

Somalia, Rwanda and Bosnia.



Cabinet Secretary, invented the idea that ministers are accountable but not responsible for the ac-tions of civil servents. Said in evidence that ministers had a right to withhold information from Parliament, and orchestrated the Gov-emment's "misleading" reemment's misleading re-sponse to the report. Still heads the Civil Service.



Whatever happened to the key protagonists?

Whitehall's walls of secrecy British government, the barriwere supposed to begin break- ers appear as impenetrable as

ing down a year ago with the ever.

publication of the Scott Report.

However, with increasing calls

Scott On the first anniversary of the Scott Report, shadow Foreign for a more open system of Secretary Robin Cook, will say

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Attorney Clearing the parhaps the most teachly criticised figure in the safety acticised figure in the safety attosafety Certificates and for the
highest act on Mr. Hesselline's
belief that Justice might not
be done. Sir Richard seid:
"I do not societ that he
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Has retained his post.

formation Act to end secrecy in

government. Mr Cook, speak-

ing in the Hague, will claim that Sir Richard's legal examination

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inter was attacked for "un-title statements".
"Uncomfortable" at the prospect of British tools alding traq's atom prograntine, he wrote on a stemo screwdrivers can also be required to make H-bombs". Retained post as Chief Secretary to the today that there is now "an urgent need" for a Freedom of In-

had provided "an alarming glimpse" of the arrogance of government ministers who he says have "been in power too long to tell the difference be-

and malicious". This has since

been rigidly adhered to by the

undeterred, and seemingly un-

fettered by Scott's recommen-

esterday whether his report

report for some time now",

dations for the future.

n a Foreign Office min-

part." After being ambas-sador in Portugal, became UK Permanent Represen-tative in Brussels. Has since been knighted. the words "excellent" and "en-

STEPHEN WALL, former

private secretary to John Major, was censured for

failing to give full picture

omission on Mr Wall's

of policy changes on arms exports: The failure to consult was a regretable

Although the Scott Report criticised outdated export controls as "an unfettered power to

impose whatever export control it thinks fit" Britain's overall ex-Government. The headline cast ports structure seems to have reof the Scott Report drama are mained intact. essentially still centre-stage. If Scott also called for parlia-

These included ministerial accountability, public control of Britain's export system, and public interest immunity certificates (PIIs), all central features that were under the microscope during examination of 200 witnesses, 430 hours of evideoce and, eventually, 200,000 pages of documentation. So had his report changed the

political arena that seemingly alowed ministers at the end of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war to modify guidelines on arms exports to Iraq without any formal announcement to Parliament and insist it was was merely a reinterpretation"? Had the impact of th

changed the areoa which brought allegations that ministers were prepared to see the di-rectors of the Matrix-Churchill, tool firm face imprisonment rather than allow the "reinterpretation" to be made public? Sir Richard, guardedly, said "It may be to close to judge

couraging" to describe the Gov-ernment's response, continually emphasising his was "not a political role"

Saferworld has been less far tween the national interest and less gnarded. Its representatives the party [Tory] interest."
The Commons statement 12 urged the European Unioo's months ago by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said current Inter-Governmental Conference to introduce an EU Code of Conduct on arms. there was "no conspiracy and no cover up" and that charges against ministers were "reckless

government secrecy had been in mentary scrutiny over arms exthe dock, it walked free ports concluding a need for control that would be expected and are requisite in a parliamentary democracy". Since When Sir Richard - Vice the Report was published, the Chancellor of the High Court Ministry of Defence has re-Chancery Division – was asked viewed its disclosure of information. However information had initiated change, he replied oo arms is still not disclosed authat he "hadn't actually read the tomatically. Many believe the UK should adopt a system simand said be had "pointed to arilar to the USA which means exeas that needed to be looked ports over a certain value are subject to review.

The Scott Report also criticised the "absence of any indication of purpose for which export controls can legitimately be used. Sir Richard said this "created a dangerous confusion between the law on export and the government policy". Al-though both the DTI and the MoD have their own internal guidelines, there is still no legal obligation to ensure guidelines are followed. A European Code, now official Labour and Liberal Democrat policy, would

end such grey areas. In another letter echoing the call for a European code, the bishops of Coventry, Liverpool and Oxford said the Dunblane tragedy had forced politicians to confront the link between gun availability and firearms death. But the bishops say: "The acceptance of this link sits uneasily alongside a willingness to export vastly more destructive weapons to some of the poorest countries

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All at sea: the case against polluters of the Welsh coastline

Nicholas Schoon **Environment Correspondent**

Friends of the Earth yesterday vowed to prosecute those 10 blame for the Sea Empress oil disaster if the Government's

Environment Agency fails to. The environmental group is convinced there is enough evi-dence to launch a criminal prosecution for the pollution caused after the tanker ran aground at and the salvage operation carthe entrance to Milford Haven harbour a year ago today.

But it is not yet sure who to prosecute; yesterday its campaigns director Tony Juniper said the Department of Transport, the Milford Haven Port Society said that despite the rec-Authority and the tanker's managers, Acomarit UK, were all possible candidates.

Leigh, Day & Co, lawyers for Friends of the Earth, bave writ-ten to the Environment Agency to say that unless it initiates a cciminal prosecution by 15 April the group will launch a private

The letter complains that the agency, which has strong powers to prosecute water polluters, has had nearly a year to consider prosecuting - but has still not yet decided whether to do so. The agency confirmed vesterday that its own investigations are continuing.

"What's going on?" asked Mr Juniper. "It's clear that this disaster was avoidable. If justice is to be done, then we must have proper enforcement environmental law."

Yesterday Friends reinforced its point by dumping several pails of Sea Empress oil on the steps of the Department of Transport in Marsham Street, central London. The pollutioo can still be found from time to time oo Pembrokeshire beaches because it is lifted out of remote coves or off the seabed during storms and at high tides.

The fully ladeo tanker struck rocks then lost a small quanti-ty of its cargo of North Sea crude as it eotered Milford Haven in south-west Wales, on 15 February last year,

But over 70,000 tonnes, much during the many attempts to sal-vage the ship over the next week. Tigs failed to hold the tanker in place as strong tidal currents dragged it over the rocks, holing it again and again. Evectually it was refloated and brought into port. The ship

has now been repaired and i going back into service. But Pembrokeshire suffered Britain's most damaging oil spill since the Torrey Carryon struck rocks off Cornwall 30

The Government's official accident investigation report will not be published for about another month. This has ex-amined the initial grounding ried out jointly between the Coasiguard Agency's Marine Pollution Control Unit and the port authority, and widely re-

garded as having been bungled. The Marine Conservation quiry by Lord Donaldson, there was still no permanent fleet of salvage tugs stationed around the UK to be called on in tanker emergencies. The DoT maintains three very powerful "supertugs" - one near Dover, Kent, one off the West Country and one near the Hebrides - in the winter only.

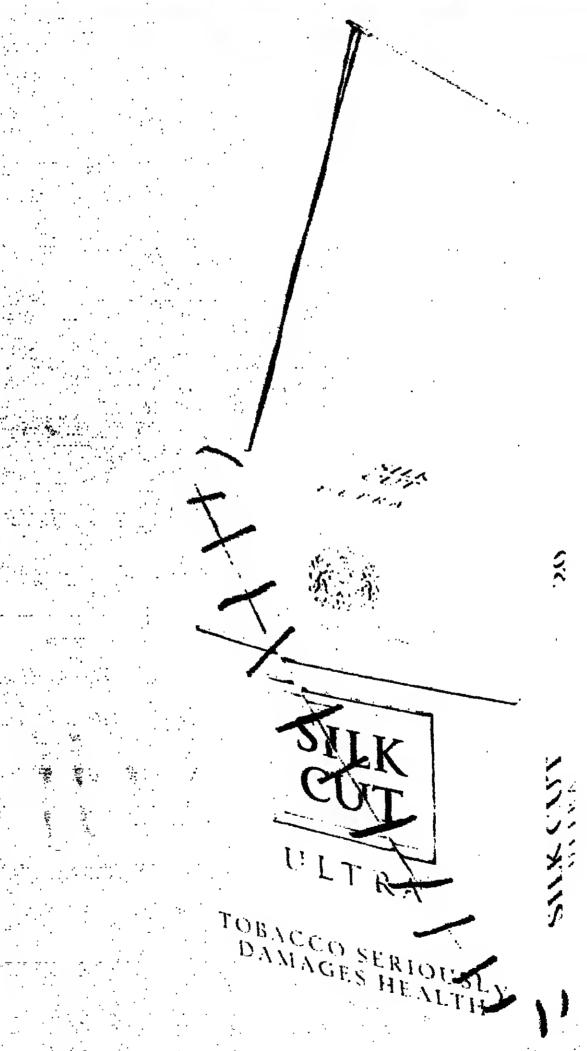
Environmental groups and local people were furious that there was no public inquiry into the disaster, even though it happened just three years af-ter Britain's previous big oil spill. In 1993 the tanker *Bruer* lost all power, struck the Shetland isles and spilt all its cargo. Far less damage was caused along the Shetland coast than in Pembrokeshire because raging storms dispersed the oil.

But the Sea Empress oil washed onto 120 miles of cliff and beach, much of it in Britain's only maritime national park. Five thousand sea birds were known to have been killed, but many more died because the bodies of most oiled seabirds never reach the shore.

There was a ban on all fishing in surrounding waters, but that has been progressively liftis still not allowed from between the low and high tide marks and a couple of small sea areas. Nor can edible seaweeds and samphire be harvested.

Nearly £2m is being spent on more than half its cargo, was lost around 100 scientific studies into the impacts of the spill, most of which are not yet complete. It is known that there was massive short term damage to wildlife and the breeding of some seabirds was set back. Fortunately the long term damage appears, so far, to be minor.





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AAAS conference: Help for problems in families and medicine

The secret of domestic bliss is all in the genes

Reports by Charles Arthur Seattle

Violence and conflict in modern families with stepchildren or stepparents is partly due to ancient genetic programming which tells us to take more care of close relatives than strangers, say scientists.

While there is no "gene for carof their immediate children because they have more of the same genes than strangers - in-cluding unrelated children. But that is causing problems in the modern age, said Stephen Emlen, professor of hiology at Cornell University, New York, at the American Association for the Advancement of Science confer-

Professor Emlen said: "The nu-

What happens if you put male mice in a cage with female mice?

If you are researchers into HIV,

the virus that causes Aids, then

you come up with clues to a po-

tential treatment for the infection.

And, bizarre though it might

sound, it also involves pregnant

crease in child abuse, delinquency and truancy.

But he said that by making people more aware of this predisposition - through education programmes similar to those about genetic disease ~ ing", many species take more care such problems could be lessened. or averted. "Be aware that if you are in a stepfamily, or dealing

> greater chance of problems," he He also suggested involving grandparents in child-rearing, especially for single-parent families, and suggested that tax incentives

> with one, there is a statistically

might induce people to take part. Studies of more than 300 hird species and 80 kinds of mammals, clear family is becoming less including humans, have shown common, replaced by growing that parents and grandparents

numbers of single-parent and tend to help their children, and are far more likely to comstepparent families, and at the effectively protecting the genes mit sexual abuse: the incidence of sexual abuse of stepdaughters in But though this worked well for

humans ever since the huntergatherers on the African plains 4 million years ago unol the middle of the 20th century, that has recently begun to break down. said Professor Emlen.

"All else being equal, the closer the kinship, the greater the tendency for animals to co-operate," he noted. But he found in a survey of social scientists' reports that there was a correlation between the structure of the fami-

ly and children's well-being. He found that stepchildren are more often physically or sex-ually abused, or killed, than children in intact families. Stepparents spend less time and effort with their partner's previ-

one study was eight times greater than for biological daughters.

Also, children in stepfamilies leave home earlier than children in intact families, while the marriage itself tended to be less stable too: divorce in American families was more common in second marriages, and that frequency grows with the number of

Professor Emlen commented: "The rules we evolved with don't work well in the greater diversiof family types present

"We didn't ask for these hiological predispositions; they came as part of a higger genetic package that worked just fine for our ancestors for thousands of

Pseudo-healers mystery of Aids prey on hopeless

stage of pregnancy, and discovered one which kills malignant Kaposi's cells without affecting pregnancy or being toxic, yet also promotes bone-marrow growth. It also has an antiviral effect, killing virus cells, which would make it effective against HIV.

According to Robert Gallo, one of the world's leading Aids researchers, the clues to the new treatment came about by accident - or, as my colleague said. good observation of an inadvertent experience" In an experiment in which

Hormone clue to

mice were injected with malignant cells from Kaposi's sarcoma, a skin cancer common in Aids patients, a researcher accidentally put male and female mice in a cage together. Subsequently, he found that female mice which were in the early stages of pregnancy when they were inoculated with the malignant cells did not develop tumours.

Dr Gallo, director of the Institute of Human Virology, said that his team - which had carried out the Kaposi's experiment then tried to find a hormone "beginning of the end" of Aids.

produced in women at the same

The hormone, human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG), has now been used effectively in trials as a skin treatment against Ka-posi's sarcoma. But Dr Gallo told the American Association yesterday that his team is still un-sure exactly how the hormone works, though they are closing in on the precise part of the protein that performs the functions.

He was also downbeat about the progress of research into cures and treatments for Aids and HIV, saying that any sort of vaccine could be years away. And he warned that recent

progress with mixtures of drugs, called protease inhibitors, and the discovery of people who appear to be naturally resistant to HIV infection, was not a definite indication that we are at the

nounced the muld-billion pound "alternative medicine" industry vesterday, describing it as "quackery" that diverts people from the truth while preying on their need to believe in a personal healer.

The growth of alternative theries, worth \$14bn (£8.8bn) in the US alone, belies the fact that many treatments have been scientifically discredited, said Barry Beyerstein, of Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia. But, he said, "a fertile climate for quackery has been created by the low level of scientific literacy among the population, and vigorous marketing of extravagant claims by so-called healers, which appeal to wishful thinking."

Sometimes, alternative practitioners twist the reporting of scientific tests which have carried out on their therapies in order to give a distorted picture of their effectiveness, said Saul Green, of Zol Consultants in New York.

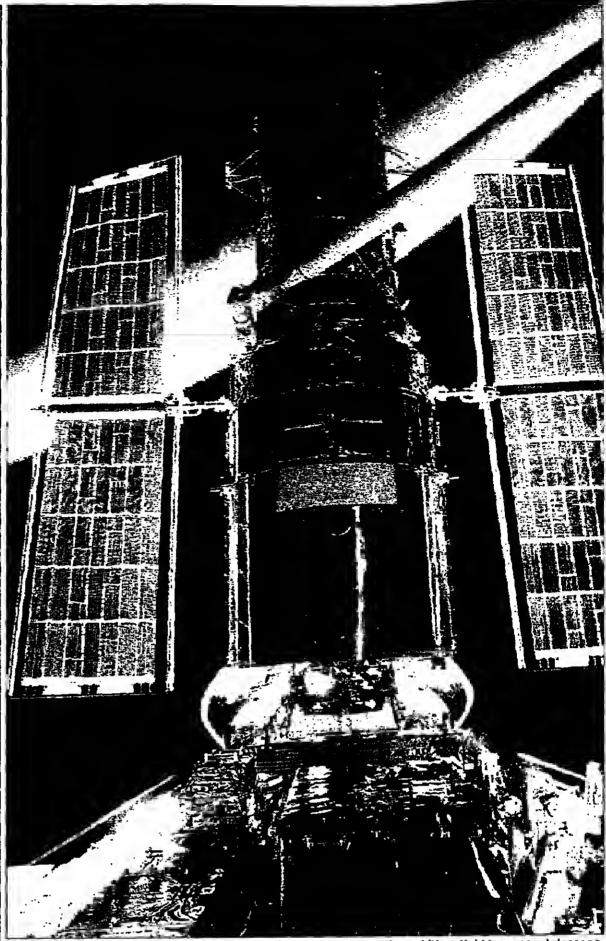
"After 15 years of studying and searching, I have not found one former cancer researcher. "I re-

American scientists furiously de-nounced the muld-billion pound these therapies depended on the fact that patients were deeply impressed with the printed word ... Advertising, not medical science, was the life-blood of these dubious methods."

He contrasted the situadon today with that in 1903 and 1938, when investigative journalism exposed the frauds being carried out by the patent medicine industry.

Robert Park, of the department of physics at the University of Maryland, said that "many of the claims made for alternative therapies violate basic laws of physics." Homeopathy relies on a "serious misunderstanding" of chaos theory, while the suggestions of biofields" which extend beyond the body have no basis in physics.

Ursula Goodenough, professor of biology at Washington University, said: "The problem is not the nice person in the health store who believes what's being sold is healthy. Rather, it's the industry built on pseudo-science that preys on hopeless people. ft fills me with



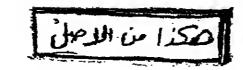
Gotcha: A 50ft arm from the space shuttle Discovery captures the orbiting Hubble space telescope 'alternative' treatment for cancer that f could endorse," said the former cancer researcher. "I re
'alternative' treatment for cancer moral outrage. Scientists carry an obligation to protest [against] successfully completing the first stage of its mission to install two state-of-the-art instruments that will abuses of scientific knowledge."

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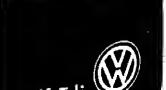
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Trainee teachers to face tests in the three Rs

Education Correspondent

grammar and maths tests before being let loose in the classroom, under plans to be announced next week.

A new national curriculum for primary teacher training will require student teachers to prove their competence in the basics of English and maths, as well as demonstrating that they can control classes and keep

lessons interesting.
The curriculum, details of which leaked out ahead of schedule yesterday, disrupting a planned series of pre-election announcements, specifies for the first time what aspiring teachers should learn. It replaces less prescriptive government-set criteria.

Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education and Emoloyment, launched outline ians for the largest ever shakeup of teacher training fast September amid growing concern that newly qualified teachers were entering the classroom lacking vital teaching

specifying an essential core of what must be taught to New primary school teachers trainee teachers, including will have to pass spelling, knowledge of their specialist subject, what their pupils should be taught, effective teaching and assessment methods and the standards of achievement they should expect from pupils.

Under the new curriculum. trainees will be expected to demonstrate understanding of English language basics, in-cluding spelling and punctuation. They will also have to show that they have mastered structure, word derivations and the sound system underlying

Trainers must learn how to get pupils to sound out words write sounds as letters, and to be articulate and cohercut in expressing meaning. Stu-dents must also be able to teach standard English.

how to teach mental arithmetic, and how to spot common mistakes. They will also be required to develop a specialist subject to A-level standard.

The curriculum will include firm guidance on teaching

trainees to prove ability in "interactive" whole-class teaching - the method used in Pacific Rim countries which have a strong track record on

The Department for Education and Employment and the Teacher Training Agency, which developed the curriculum, refused to comment on the content until the official

The Labour Party claimed that Mrs Shephard had hung on the coat-tails of its education spokesman, David Blunkett, who called last year for teachers to be given more training in how to teach effectively, including whole-class trach-

The party said it would go further than the Governme and consider reintroducing the probationary year for new teachers immediately after completing their training. allowing them to consolidate skills and ensure they had chosen the right career.

Mr Blunkett also hit out a 18 years to reform teacher



Labour spoiler on child crime

day upstaged a long-awaited government discussion paper on hild crime due out next week.

The Home Office policy proposals will "examine what more can be done to identify children at risk of offending". But Mr Straw stole a march

on the Government yesterday, expanding on previous pledges to tackde youth crimes and committed Labour to making "our streets and communities safe He said, in a speech in his duce crime.

too long, the problems caused by disorder and anti-social behaviour have been placed low down the political agenda by central government. This attitude must change. Disorder and low-level offending have a profound effect on people's quality of life. It is time to act."

In addition to Labour's manifesto commitments to halve the time from arrest to sentence for ' persistent young offenders, and cal community?"

crime policy as well as an eco-Labour's home affairs nomic policy - Mr Straw spokesman, Jack Straw, yester- proposed an eight-point action plan to tackle bad behaviour by

> The package included child protection area orders, to deal with under-10s out, unsupervised, late at night; a replace responsibility orders, to make parents face up to the responsibility of their children's conduct: and a new duty to make local authorities work in partnership with the police to re-

develop local responses to the problems that most concern our communities. The precise problems and the responses will vary across the country, but the approach will be the same.

"What are people most concerned about, and how can these problems best be tackled, using the resources of the police, the local authority, and all the other key players in the lo-

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Germans taste the trauma of the dole

Imre Karacs looks at the results of a collapsing economic miracle

workshop, watching, never asking a question, yet taking copious notes. Two weeks ago the visitor's purpose was revealed. He was a member of a team of management consultants hired to root in the Ruhr yesterday in protest against out inefficiency, and the fruit of their labour was a report 2.200 names long, headed "surplus to requirements". Dieter, a fitter aged 30, found his name on

It felt like a roof collapsing over your head," he said. Dieter had been unemployed before, but had learnt his new trade during a previous recession and was confident he could ride out the next one.

Now he is not so sure. He has fired off some 40 joh applications, but all be bas had back are straight rejections. He is now widening the search beyond Duis-burg, a city of half a million where one in five is out of work, but employers in the neighbouring towns do not even bother to reply. Duisburg has the highest jobless rate for a big city in western Germany, but the situation in the rest of the Ruhr is only marginally better, and what vacancies exist tend to be in fast food restaurants. The steel industry, where Diever used to earn his daily bread, is down-sizing everywhere.

While he is idle, the state will pay him about DM2.500 (£915) a month - 63 per eem of his last take-home pay. After a year, the dole falls to 53 per cent, and after two years he will only be entitled to supplementary benefit. "Money will be tight." he says, but that's not what wor-ries him most.

No society holds the unemployed in high esteem, hut German society is es-pecially harsh in its judgement. When you lose your job, friends tend to take a step hack." Dieter said, "No one wants to hang out with a loser." Dieter will only confess to his friends if has not found work by the end of March.

He will then disappear, following millions of others who have already shut themselves away to hide their shame. "They become anonymous," said Gisela Averkamp, who runs a charity which helps people on the dole. "Most stay at home and watch television all day, it is unbelievably difficult to persuade them

to come to the unemployment centre."
The unemployed vanish from their favourite pubs, sever trade union links

Duisburg — Dieter Held did not pay much attention to the man with the cliphoard who kept coming around to the natural decline in voter turnout matches the rising rate of joblessness. Behind those closed shutters there is seething reseatment, but it is yet to be articulated. Demonstrations, such as the 60-mile-long human chain formed unemployment, are staged and manned mostly by union members desperate to avoid the fate of their ostracised former workmates.

The state, paranoid about provoking the unemployed, goes out of its way to keep them sweet. The jobless are summoned by courteous civil servants every three months for an interview, but are otherwise left alone. There are no queues at the labour bureaux, and the cheques arrive regularly without fuss. Because working Germans contribute to a state-run insurance scheme, the dole is n pay-related entitlement irrespective of. personal savings and the earnings of fam-ily members. The jobless are even allowed to earn DM580 (£214) a month in

Thus does the Federal Republic preserve social peace at a time of Weimarian unemployment levels. There are no stone-throwing youths lurking in Duis-burg's neatly kept parks, no graffiti de-facing public huildings on its litter-free streets. Factories that fall empty are rapidly converted into concert halls and theme parks. School-leavers, potentially the most explosive segment of the emerging under-class, are kept off the streets by a wide range of interminable retraining schemes. There are an esti-mated 2.5 million Germans on various projects who are not counted as unemployed.

What trade they should be taught is not clear, however. Ms Averkamp, whose centre provides courses for the young. says she tries to steer the new generation of Duisburgers away from metal-basbing towards the gardening domain. There are still jobs to be had in health care and in retail, and management consultancy is booming.

Where a school-leaver's certificate might have sufficed a few years ago, employers now demand more impressive bits of paper - which often count for more in Germany than experience - even for the most menial jobs. Those who cannot keep up face the prospect of permanent unemployment.



Boom over: Coal miners and teenagers lighting torches at an anti-unemployment demonstration in Luenen, near Dortmund, yesterday

MORTH RHINE 21.1% 18.5% WESTPHALIA GERMANY 11.5% HESSE STHERDWAY SAYOM PALATINATE

Unemployment stalks the land

Imre Karacs

It bas been a good week on the Frankfurt stock exchange. Investors, cheered by news from the job market and the corresponding plunge in the Deutschmark, poured their money into German companies. matching the post-war record in unemployment with an all-time high for the Dax shares index.

One of the star performers in Frankfurt's bull run was Siemens, a large exporter of German electrical goods and jobs, which announced a leap in profits. Siemens sacked 6,000 workers last year, but wants to raise its return on investments to American levels by the year 2000. To get oearer that goal, the company will fire another 6,000 of its employees by the end of the year.

This is not bow things are supposed to be done in Germany, the bome of "Rhenish capitalism" which puts the

es' second and shareholders' last. The model gave the world the economic miracle and almost imparalleled prosperity, built on barmonious labour relations, a cartel-like economy of cross-ownership, and consensus

The system suited everybody for five decades, but it no longer suits the money-men. An in-creasing number of German companies, their managers bewitched by Anglo-Saxon phrases, such as "shareholder value" and "globalisation", are forsaking the German model.

The malaise of down-sizing is spreading from the north, cutting across the Ruhr, and its effects can even be felt in the land of the "sunrise industries" in the south. Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg, where the un-employed might bave been heading a few years ago on their bikes, both bave a higher job-

less rate now than Britain. As for the East, the trillion

Deutschmarks invested since

unification has failed to create more jobs than Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic achieved without the help of German tax-payers. There are, of course, many af-

fluent oases on this bleak landscape. Paris of eastern Germany now boast the most modern production methods in the world, which in years to come will pay rich dividends. The chemical sector in the West is booming, there are jobs galore in biotechnology and computing, and car manufacturers are

conquering new markets and bolding their own at home. But those that remain successful have done so by shedding labour, often in the teeth of resistance from unions and politicians. Volkswagen started from scratch in eastern Germany, negotiating wages and work practices that would not be accepted by western unions. Daimler-Benz, the country's largest industrial concern, has sacked tens of thousands of

workers on its way towards renewed profitability.

White collar unemployment is still rare, but it is coming. Johs in the public sector which used to enjoy civil-servant status are increasingly being offered on a contractual basis. There are openings in the service sector, New hotels in eastern Germany are seeking receptionists,

Economists and long-suffering consumers agree that there is scope for improvement, Theremust be thousands of unemployed hairdressers, yet you cannot get a haircut in most of Germany on Mondays.

Will customer-friendly hairdressers save Germany from ever-higher levels of unemoloyment? Some experts doubt it. The trouble is that jobs are simply disappearing faster than they are being created in services," says Peter Frieburg of Duisburg's labour exchange. But at least there are bound to be new opportuoities in the

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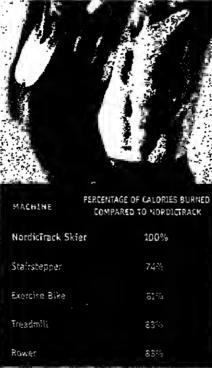
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The Figures.



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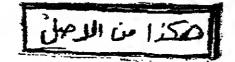
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French make busiest piste a private function

An eerie silence has fallen upon our apartment building, and the streets outside. The lift, previously as clusive as a waiter in a crowded café, remains obcdiently where you leave it for as much as 30 minutes at a time.

There are parking spaces on the street; there are empty lunch tables in restaurants as late as 12.45pm. The extremely noisy family in the flat below no longer complains to the gardienne about the noise made by our children running on the parquet floor.

It is, in short, the official Parisian two-week winter holiday. Not quite le tout Paris, hut a sizable part of it, has departed to the slopes, or to their second residence; or to their in-laws "in the provinces".

The great summer escape from the capital is well known. It is a mark of shame for a Parisian of any means or social standing to be found in Paris in August, when the city is invaded by foreign tourists. The vacances d'hiver, starting only four weeks after the Christmas-New Year holidays finish, are not so rigorously observed but they are another of those mass events the French love, and love to complain about.

Peasant farmers in the Ardeche and the unemployed in the Pas de Calais will not be taking their skis to the Alps. or going to their residences secdaires. But, like it or not, their children are off school for two weeks and in some cases, receiving free, or cheap, ski hol-idays, subsidised by the state. The school calendar for the

entire country is designed, it seems, to suit the regimented social life cycle of the French bourgeoisie. But the school calendar, fixed nationally three years in advance, then becomes a kind of tyranny, which makes life even more regimented than is comfortable, or even tolerable. The whole situation is rather typiquement français: logical planning to solve one problem

causes a much worse problem. The fashionable time to go skiing is in Fehruary because the French will not ski anywhere but in France and the best French skiing is reckoned to be in February. Since five weeks paid hol-

PARIS DAYS

France (more than any country except Germany), a two-week winter, or ski, break has been built into the school year.

Only a small minority of the French go skiing - just over 8 per cent. But since they all go at once, this means 5 million pairs of skis hit the slopes at the same. This makes for very

Even if they do not go skiing. many other French people, almost one in three, go on holiday at this time, because the

6 A penchant for formation living is matched by an extreme

privacy 9 schools are closed. Very few

attachment to

(about 5 per cent) venture outside France. Mostly, they go to second homes or to relatives and friends in the country. More than any other Euro-

pean country, the French spend all their holidays at home. This is a symptom of French insulanty, if you like. But France is also the most popular holiday destination in the world. If this country, which has mountains, sunshine, good food, history, culture and unspoiled countryside, is popular with foreigners, wby should it not also be popular with the French? Benedicte, who lives two

floors below us and is the only

neighbour to have befriended us, checrfully sums up her ex-istence: "Paris is for school. As soon as there is no school we go into the provinces." Whenever her husband can, he goes too. Otherwise, every weekend and school-holiday, Bénedicte packs up the car and the children and sets off to her mother-in-law's courses for the children.

mation living is matched by an extreme attachment to privacy. Package tours are unpopular.At holiday time, they go off en masse to live very private lives.

The Ministry of Education

decided three years ago that the timing of the winter holidays was causing a problem. The departure of tens of thousands of families to the slopes, or the countryside, when tens of thousands of others were making their normal weekend pilgrim-ages, was causing vast traffic jams on the autoroutes out of Paris and oo the narrow roads ading to the best ski resorts.

Hence, a Cartesian solution

was devised: start the school hol-idays on a Wednesday and end them on a Wednesday, to avoid hig jams at the weekends. This year school in Paris ended at Wednesday lunchtime on 5 February and resumes next Wednesday morning on 19 February. Unfortunately, it occurred to no one that few parents would be allowed to start their holidays from work on a Wednesday, Also, no steps were taken to persuade the ski resorts to shift from the Saturday-to-Saturday pattern of letting everything from skis to boots to chalets. As a result, many people have been forced to squash two-week ski holidays into one, making the slopes even more crowded and threatening almighty jams on the roads today and tomorrow, instead of next weekend. The ski resorts complain they are losing busi-

"samedi rouge" by Bison Futé, the absurd cartoon Native American who is the symbol of road safety in France. It will be, in other words, a day of vast

jams and maximum aggravation.
The noisy people in the flat below (who have never spoken to us but always complain tbrough the gardienne) will be in a rare old mood when they get home. It may be a good time to book home clog-dancing



significant shorts

UN staff accused of child abuse in Angola

Angola's Justice Minister, Paulo Tjipilica accused United Nations personnel and foreign aid workers in Angola of sexually exploiting children. "Aside from Angolan citizens there are foreigners involved, some who work for Unavern (UN Angola Verification Mission) and others who work with aid groups." A UN spokesman said a committee had been set up to investigate the allegations Reuter - Luanda

Under-age labour offside

Sporting goods companies including Nike and Reebok are joining a campaign to halt football production by Pakistani children. As many as 10,000 children under 14 spend 10 bours a day stitching the balls for a pittance. Last summer the US government began a campaign to discourage Americans from buying child-made balls. AP – New York

37,000 mercy killings

An estimated 37,000 euthanasia deaths occur each year in Australia as a result of doctors intentionally accelerating a patient's death, according to a survey of 3,000 doctors. Euthanasia is illegal in Australia except in the outback Northern Territory which introduced the world's first voluntary euthanasia law last September. Three people have used the law, which the Australian parliament threatens to overturn. Reuter - Sydney

Scientologists sue Kohl

Three Scientologists have taken Chancellor Helmut Kohl's party to court for expelling them as members. A civil lawsuit filed in Bonn accuses Christian Democratic Union of violating national laws and international conventions on human and political rights. The CDU ousted the three in December because they are Scientologists.

AP – Bont

Sharif named as PM

The Pakistan Muslim League (PML), which won general elections on 3 February, named its leader, Nawaz Sharif, as prime minister. A meeting of the partiamentary group of the PML and its allies unanimously elected Mr Sharif as their parliamentary leader. He will be formally elected prime minister on Monday. Router - Islamabad

Uighur plea for help

Uighur organisations appealed to the UN and Central Asian leaders for help stopping what they called China's armed suppression of their people. China admitted clashes last week between Uighurs and ethnic Chinese in Yining left 10 people dead. But Kakharman Khozhamberdi, leader of the United Association of Uighurs, said the death-toll was between 80 and 90 people.

AP – Almaty was between 80 and 90 people.

Mayor in fraud probe

John Lichfield

11

The Mayor of Paris, a close ally of both the French President and Prime Minister, is under investigation for embezzlement of public funds three years ago, according to the magazine Le Rini.

Jean Tiberi - whose wife is al-ready being investigated by magistrates for the same affair - will receive a letter placing him under formal examination in the next few days, according to the magazine. The mayor, who was deputy mayor under Jacques Chirac at the time of the alleged wrong-doing, rejected Le Point's account vesterday as "the propagation of false information".

He said he would take legal ac- magistrates examining the tion against the magazine.

His wife, Xavière, is accused of having received 200,000 francs (£22,000) in a sweetheart deal with a local council in the Paris region in 1994. Mrs Tiberi received the money for drawing up an allegedly pointless report on links between French local gov-erument and former French

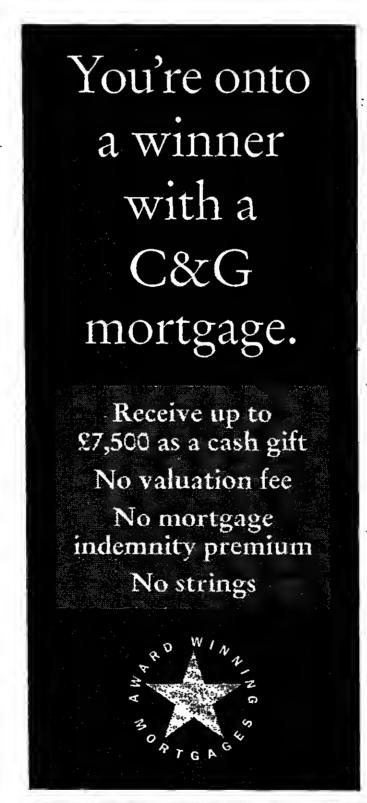
colonies in Africa. According to the satirical and investigative weekly Lc Canard Enchaine, the report was mostly plagiarised by a researcher from published sources and was, in any case, of no practical use to the departement of the Essonne.

Le Point reports in its edition published today that the two

ments have discovered that the money was placed in a bank ac-count held jointly in the names

of both Mr and Mrs Tiberi. Last December the chairman of the Essonne council, Xavier Dugoin, directly implicated Mr Tiben in the affair. He said he was seeking access to the "net-work of contacts" of the then Number Two in the Paris town hall. He had several conversations with Mr Tiben in which it was agreed how he would engage

the services of Mrs Tiberi and how she would be paid. The affair is potentially senously damaging for President Jacques Chirac and the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé.



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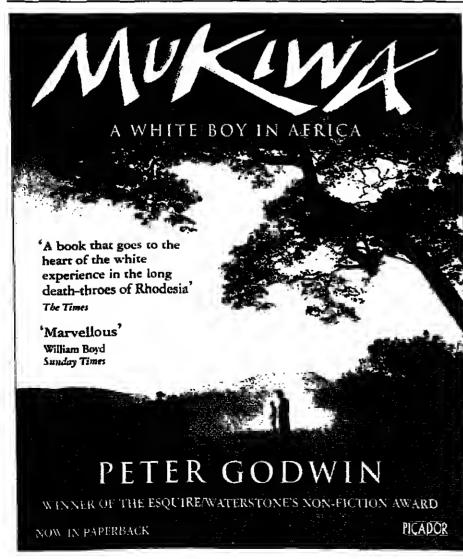
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Martin Luther King's family demand trial

Rupert Cornwell Washington

After almost three decades of silence, the family of Martin Luther King is reopening one of the most traumatic events in modern American history, by demanding a full-scale trial of the man who was convicted of the 1968 murder of the leader of the United States' civil rights

movement. Flanked by his mother. Coretta Scott King, Dexter King told a press conference in his father's home town of Atlanta that the family would make a formal petition next week for a court trial of James Earl Ray, who is dying of liver disease in a Tennessee prison hospital. "It's now or oever," Dexter King said. "Only a duly conducted trial can shed light on my father's assassination.

In many respects, the King case resembles the controversy which still surrounds the assassination of President Kennedy, that other national tragedy of the Sixties. As with Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas, forcosic evidence is overwhelming that Federal Bureau of Investiga-

Ray fired the single rifle shot which killed Dr King on a motel halcony in Memphis, represented to US social stabil-

But, exactly as with JFK, conspiracy theories rage. In part, these reflect a similar refusal to

6 Ray is dying of liver disease. It's now or never. Only a full trial can shed light on my father's assassination >

admit that a random act by one obscure individual acting alone could change history. But doubts of the official version of events are reinforced by the known obsession of the then director of the

ity. In short, was Ray given a helping hand from above?

After the murder on 4 April, as protest rioting swept the



James Earl Ray: Dying of

black ghettoes of the US, Ray fled to Canada, and thence to Britain and Portugal, before returning to London. He was arrested on 8 June 1968 at Heathrow airport as he tried to board a flight to Brussels. To

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ly had he been sentenced than Ray recanted his confession and demanded a proper trial.

Even though a congressional committee in 1979 found the "likelihood but no proof" of a conspiracy, Ray's request has seven times been turned down. and prosecutors insist that no new facts justify a reopening of the case. But his illness (he has acute liver circhosis and without a transplant is given less than a year to live) and the intervention of the King family may tip Ray himself, now 68, insists

that he did not commit the crime, and his lawyers claim technology developed since his 1969 conviction could show that his 30-calibre hunting rifle was not the murder weapon. But the biggest mystery is how Ray, a small-time burglar on the run at the time of the assassination, obtained the money, air tickets and four fake identities which helped him evade capture for two months.

The FBI kept my father under closer surveillance than any man in history, even more than Al Capone. There were 5,000 men on him," Dexter King claims. "How was a man with only an eighth-grade education, who was an escapee from prison with very little

and travel to three countries?" A trial, he acknowledges, might not completely clear up the mystery, hut it would give the family "peace of mind". The

truth had to be established,

and "we feel strongly this can

only be done in a court of law". Among the most common theories is that Ray was set up by the Mafia, acting on behalf of the FBI or the CIA, and that he handed his gun to a man who said he was part of a gun-running scheme. The aim of the alleged plot was to prevent Dr King leading a planned march on Washington that, the authorities feared, could spark a oational black uprising. In fact, his assassination led to the worst race

riots in the city's history. Ray has frequently changed his story of his actions in the 24 hours up to the assassination. But it is known that he bought the rifle in March 1968, and had followed Dr King to at least two cities before he arrived in Memphis to rally striking refuse work-ers. He died on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel, which has since been turned into America's

first civil rights museum. Yesterday Ray's family also supported a trial. "I'm sure the whole King family, like the whole Ray family and the rest of the American public, wants the



truth to come out, once and for all," his brother Jerry Ray said.

Demand for justice: Dexter King, son of assasinated civil rights leader Martin Luther Photograph: AP

Bosnian town left in tense limbo

Tony Barber Europe Editor

The north Bosnian town of Brcko, a focus of tension among Serbs, Muslims and Croats, will be placed under international supervision for a year pending a deci-sion on its status, a US arbiter said yesterday. "We will make a final choice no later than March 1998," Roberts Owen told reporters in Rome.

Tension remained too high for Brcko to be awarded to the Bosnian Serbs, the Muslim-Croat federation, or the joint government of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in which all three nationalities are represented. "We are not convinced that any of the three candidates are sufficiently stabilised to take on the situation."

trated the hitterness and suspicion that fester in Bosnia more than a year after the Dayton peace deal was signed. Brcko was the focus of such a fierce contest for control at the Dayton talks that the issue was left unresolved and turned over to an arbitration panel.

Muslim and Croat leaders said it should be awarded to their federation, which occupies 51 per cent of Bosnia, because it had a Muslim and Croat majority before the Serbs seized it in May 1992: The Bosnian Serbs insisted on keeping control because Brcko provides a land link between the two balves of Republika Srpska, the Serb entity occupy-

ing 49 per cent of Bosnia. Some Western officials feared the is-The ruling lessened the danger of an sue could ultimately cause the entire

immediate crisis over Brcko, hut illus- Dayton peace structure to collapse. When rumours circulated in Sarajevo that Mr Owen intended to award Broko to the Serbs, the Bosnian Muslim leader, Alija Izetbegovic, threatened to pull out of the three-pation collective Bosnian presidency. "I think that there is no one who could explain to the Bosnian people that it should calmly endure this final injustice," Mr Izethegovic wrote in a letter to the major world powers. He said political chaos would break out if

> no Muslim politician would agree to serve on the collective presidency. No less single-minded, the Bosnian Serbs see control of Brcko as an essential guarantee of their republic's survival. They have threatened to go back to war if the Muslims and Croats are awarded

> Breko were left in Serb hands, because

the town, Mr Owen said one possible solution was to turn the town into a special district of Bosnia, with a status similar to that of Washington DC in the United States.

However, Breko is not the only dispute still simmering in Bosnia almost five years after the war broke out.

The southern town of Mostar, split into Croat and Muslim sectors, has in the past week experienced its worst violence since the war ended in November 1995.

The presence of Nato troops is perhaps the main reason why war has not returned to Bosnia, but they are due to leave by mid-1998.

The United States welcomed the mediator's decision to defer the final decision on the status of Breko.

Clinton tears war in **Mid-East**

Patrick Cockburn Jerusalem

Worried that Israel and Syria are sliding towards a war in Lehanon, President Clinton is trying to get the two countries to resume the peace talks browith Beojamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, in Wash-ington, Mr Clinton said he felt encouraged, but an Israeli official said yesterday that there had been no breakthrough.

The guerrilla war by Hizbollah, the Lebanese Islamic movement, against Israeli forces occupying a nine-mile wide zone in south Lebanoo is unlikely to end so long as Israel holds the Golan Heights, which it captured from Syria in 1967, Israel helieves. Officials say that Pesident Hafez al-Assad of Syria sees the fighting in Lebanon as an important way of putting pressure on Israel over

Mr Netanyahu is quoted in the Israeli press as telling Mr Clinton: "You must make it clear to Assad that he must think of other options - the option of a total withdrawal from the Golan does not exist from our point of view."

Zeev Schiff, an Israeli military commentator, says the US does not want to start talks which would get nowhere. He adds that this is "despite the American belief that in the absence of a peace process, the sides will slide downwards towards war."

Attacks by the Israeli force in Lebanon earier this week were directed at positions in the Beka'a valley, which is under Syrian control, in order to demonstrate Israeli military superiority in the wake of a series of successful guerrilla attacks and the helicopter accident which killed 73 Israeli troops.

The US opposes a unilater-al Israeli pull-out. President Clintoo said: "It is crucial Israel protects the security of its northern border." A further impediment to talks with Syria is that President Assad is seriously ill, a US official said.



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However, Breko is not the only

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Clever boxing by Russia's champion of democracy

Moscow — Grigory Yavlinsky used to be a boxer, but these days he likes to win his bouts with a thetorical upper-cut, culled from the pages of 20th-century history: "The successful reform of Germany and Japan after the war was prepared by completely changing the political elite. In Russia, that

did not happen." Doubt has long been raised about the polices of the autocratically inclined President Boris Yeltsin, the magnates who underpin his rule and the former apparatchiks who crowd the corridors of government.

Many are assumed in the West to be reformers and democrats, despite evidence that their priorities have less to do with ideology than a desire tn

But Mr Yavlinsky, head of Russia's Yahlnko (Apple) par-ty, has impeccable credentials, heing leader of what he describes as "a real, federal dePhil Reeves meets the combative Grigory Yavlinsky

mocratic party of European values, of human values, of human rights, of competition, private property and the open market." That makes him reiatively rare in Moscow: a largepro-Western liberal ly pro-Western liberal ideologue. With Mr Yeltsin's

second term in intensive care. Mr Yavlinsky has also emerged as one of his most caustic op-ponents, matching and often outsparring the Communist-nationalist opposition which dom-

Russia is in the grips of a nor green. It is merely greedy and rapacious."

Given such failings, the leadaround the remnants of the Soviet system, he told the Independent. The media is tamed; even the opposition is some-thing of a sham. The govern-ment is working hand-in-hand with the Communists and the nationalists ... They are the

main forces which are sup-

porting the government."

The timing of such attacks is no coincidence. Like everyone else, the 44-year-old economist senses Russia is preparing for the possibility of a future with a new president, amid a mood that dusk has set on the Yelisin era. Last week he was on the offensive again, writing in the Financial Times: "The ruling élite is neither democratic nor Communist, neither conservative nor liberal, neither red

and rapacious."

Given such failings, the leadership is, he warns, unable to cope with new menaces to Russia and the West: loss of control over nuclear weapons, develnpment of a breeding-ground for terrorism and crime, and the "high probability" of an envior of Moscow.

Yabloko enjoys strong support among the urban educat-He told the Independent: "A very small number of people ed but Mr Yavlinsky's 10 million supporters are too few to put him high in the field. He could have benefited from what happened in the last five years, maybe a million out of 158 milwinkle a promise of a top position by offering an alliance with whatever candidate the rul-ing establishment fields under lion. That million is really rich. But all the others ... got no access to resources, access to property, freedom to set up their own business." the tattered banner of democracy and reform. But he prefers Mr Yavlinsky wants Mr Yeltsin's successor to be subject to remain aloof, an uncompro-

there should be no more mas-sive tax breaks issued with a they (the voters) would say you are the same. You are only stroke of the pen, no more se-cret decrees. "We need a system looking for your own'. The people would be disappointed. We have to show that there can where it would not be possible for the president to have a be a clean democracy, with clean hands." Fine words. But morning cup of tea, and then to in a country angered and hu-miliated by Nato expansion, the loss of the Chechen war, and Should an election be called, Mr Yaviinsky would run, al-though he is overshadowed by botched economic reforms, the the front-runners, notably the nationalist-leaning Alexander outlook for liberal ideologues is

mising democratic voice.

to more checks and balances;



Lone voice: Grigory Yavilnsky, who says Russia is in the grips of a 'semi-criminal oligarchy' which has sprung from the remnants of the Soviet system Photograph: AP

Yeltsin rejects move to rewrite constitution

In his first radio address to the nation since being stricken with double pneumonia early last month, Boris Yeltsin yesterday tried to stifle rising demands for immediate constitutional amendments spawned by the incertainty over his long-term future in the Kremlin.

Speaking for six minutes in a clear but slightly croaky voice, the embattled President sought to remind both his friends and foes that although he may be down - he has been off sick for most of the last seven months ne is not yet out.

Significantly, though, he did not dismiss the possibility of eventual changes to Russia's 1993 constitution, in which he secured sweeping powers, say-ing only that they must follow a "natural process" and not be

Alarmed by the prospect that he may be too unwell to rule for much longer, Moscow's political establishment has been embroiled in a debate about altering the constitution, partly to ensure that Russia's fate no hands of one man, and partly to

when the President is ill, a move that would delay the date of an election.

There have also been rumblings about allowing parliament to appoint the next president, a move that would radically after the nature of Russia's political system. Both ploys would severely damage Mr Lebed's prospects. Yesterday Mr Yeltsin sought

to dampen down what has become a heated issue. "The constitution is the pivot of the new Russian statehood," he said.

"It is premature today to subject the new structure of the Rossian state, as it is being built, to a test of its durability. It is more than that - it is foolhardy. His broadcast came as he se-

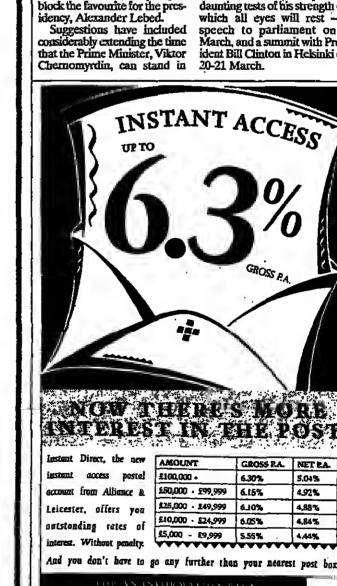
cured a small victory - the failure of a symbolic and lacklustre attempt in the Russian parliament's lower house, the Duma, to secure a motion calling on him to step down because of ill health. A truer measure of the President's fitness lies in the

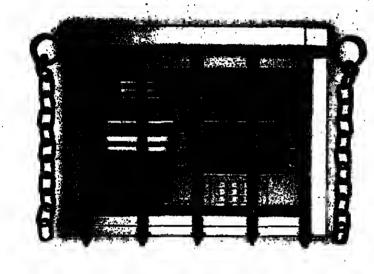
Mr Yeltsin's calendar for next week includes a meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and the US Secretary of

After that loom even more March, and a summit with Pres-

4,88%

THE





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health. A truer measuredt President's littless lies wi

State, Madeleine Albigh After that loom event daunting tests of his steel speech to parliaments March, and a summit with ident Bill Clinton in Hekit ster. Viktor

20-21 March.



MPs took a breather from the pre-election squalls this week with the 10th annual exhibition of the Parliamentary Photographic Group sponsored by Kodak. Labour's Ann Taylor found inspiration from the countryside near Holmfirth, Yorkshire, with 'Storm Brewing'. Picture taken with a Canon IXUS Advanced Photosystem camera, using Kodak Advantix 200 ASA film set on automatic, but using fill in flash

thelongweekend

May 26th /56 WORDS OF THE WEEK



Sotheby's, the London auction house, is to hold a sale of the love letters between 20-year-old Isabella Mayson, later known as the Victorian cook Mrs Beeton, left, and her beau, Samuel. The correspondence was written before their marriage in 1856

a vast amount of good even to do a little black and white business, knowing very well that a few lines of nonsense are always acceptable to a certain mutable gentleman be they ever so short or

Yours affectionately, lovingly and truly BELLA MAYSON

that evening at the Opera, that is to say if we go by ourselves; rather a bold expression for a maiden of twenty.

June 1st /56 My dearly beloved Sam I take advantage of this after dinner opportunity to enjoy myself and have a small chat with

s I have here two or three little matters in

your note of yesterday which rather puz-

zied me, I thought I must write and ask

an explanation. In the first place, in what does Bella sometimes now pain Sam just a little?

Why does he not wish to be near her? Secondly, what right has he to conjure up in his fertile imag-ination any such masty things as rough corners to

smooth down, when there is one who loves him

better and more fondly than ever one behind did

another on this earth at least. Oh Sam I think it

is so wrong of you to fancy such dreadful things. I must certainly say I have always looked up to,

and respected, both parents and perhaps have been too mindful of what they say (I mean respect-

ing certain matters), but then in a very short time

you will have the entire management of me and

you will have the entire management of me and I can assure you that you will find in me a most docile and yielding pural. Pray don't magme when I am yours – that things will continue the same as they are now. God forbid. Better would it be to put an end to this matter altogether if we

thought there was the slightest probability of that,

so pray don't tremble for our future happiness. I

could not sleep without writing you, so you must excuse this nonsense. Good night, my precious pet,

may angels guard and watch over you and give you

pleasant dreams, not drab colours and accept the

you on paper although I have really nothing to

say, and looking at it in a mercenary point of view

my letter will not be worth the postage. I am so continually thinking of you that it seems to do me

fondest and most sincere love of,

Burn this as soon as perused.

Your devoted, .
BELLA MAYSON

Accept my best love and think of me only as, I am looking forward with great pleasure to

1000000 kisses. Good bye, my darling.

Epsom June 16th 1856

My very dear Sam, I have just returned from Brighton and hasteo to write you a few lines just to give you a short account of my trip to Brighton.

In the first place I was very much disappointed at your not coming on Saturday evening. I waited and looked out anxiously for you but no Sam did I see to gladden my eyes. Naughty and very cruel of you to serve me so to serve me so, as Polly Hopkins says. We arrived about noon at Brighton and immediately went shopping for the small childreo to appear at our wedding in something more than

We shall not be in Town till Thursday when I hope to see you. Could you not run down to-morrow evening to see me. It seems such ao age since I have spoken with you and I can assure you I quite long for a quiet little chat with my old man, my dear darling venerable.

London Bouverie Sunday Eveg 9 o'c

My dearest Bella,

As I have been completely sold to-day, and am feeling borribly blue, wretchedly cobalt, disagreeably desolate, I am going to wreak my miserableness on you, and bother you about a lot of things of which I have been thinking.

First of all, by some misunderstanding. Mr Hegarty didn't dine with us to-day and consequently I had not even the satisfaction of being able to say unto myself Well, if you would have preferred being with Bella, still you are doing your duty in paying all the respect you can unto a good fellow, and most valued friend of your Father's you see I couldn't even gammon myself with that small specific, so I ate my dinner with the best grace possible, potted everybody, was surly to all, and escaped to my den in Bouverie - have writ-ten a multitude of people on different matters, looked at Ledgers. Cash books, Cheque books, etc., and, after all this dreadful wickedness, com-

plete the scene by annoying you.

I commenced the day badly I fear, for I was violating the Sabbath by violetting in the field and roads, this morning, round Pinner.

London, Bouverie Friday aftn.

My dearest Bella How shall I thank you enough for your kind note – in what way can I pour forth my appreciation of your thoughtfulness and goodness in writing to me in so fond a manner? I give up the sweet talk in despair, for if one were to search out the most telling words of gratitude from all the vocabularies, written and underwritten, of all the nations – the mystic Chaldea the classic Latin, the oure Greek, the rare Hindostanee, the trenchant Saxoo, the modern French, the mellifluous Italian - yet would all these fall far short of expressing that sentiment of thankfulness which I so strongly feel. The pleasure I derived from your letter, too, was heightened by the knowledge that my frieod Fred likewise received an epistle from Brighton so, knowing how much I prized your fondly written lines, I could estimate his gratification of the receipt of his epistle.

The Beeton letters and a large collection of cook-ery books will be auctioned at Sotheby's on 10 April. For details phone: Polly Bayntun-Coward 0171-408

Last week we inadvertently reported that the Radio 4 play Spoonface Steinberg was to be repeated on February 4. It is, in fact, to be broadcast again on February 22 after an unprecedented demand for the repeat. We are sorry that we did not credit Lee Hall as the author of the piece. Lee Hall's first play, 'I Love You Jimmy Spud', is to be filmed this summer.

INSIDE

John Walsh meets Jane Birkin

... and finds she wants to be a hit in her home country page 3

Byron: the poet as pop star

Sex, scandal and the roles the writer played

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A noughts and crosses puzzle caught on camera: noughts to play and win

f we ever make contact with beings from another galaxy, it would be very surprising to discover that they played

chess, hridge or hackgammon. The rules are too intricate and arbitrary to expect them to have evolved independently among a different intelligence. They might just play a form of Go, though probably not on our 19 by 19 hoards. What they would almost certainly do, however - if they have discovered the joys of games at all – is to play some version of Noughts and Crosses.
The idea of making connected lines of symbols on a square grid is so natural, they must surely do it everywhere in the universe.

They would know, of course, that the traditional three-bythree game always ends in a draw if the players know what they are doing. (Unlike the opponent of the little girl in the picture, who has already gone fatally wrong. She has only to put her Nought in the centre now, and she will win in a couple also have discovered - if their gravity is strong enough to support the game at all - that Connect-4 (in which pieces must drop to the lowest available point in vertical lines on a sevenby-seven grid) is a win for the player whu goes first. (Though it took a good computer program to find the strategy leading by

force to a winning line of four in a row.) But where would our alien friends stand on the game of five-in-a-row, also known as Go-Moku or, in its more refined form, Renju?

In its casual form, the game is played on sheets of graph paper, just like an extended game of noughts-and-crosses, and the winner is the first to make five in a row. There is some evidence that such a game existed in China around 4,000 years ago, though the Ancient Greeks and pre-Columbian Americans seems also to have discovered it independently.

The game took a more formal

shape around 700AD, when it began to be played in Japan with black and white stones on a Go board. It was not until towards the end of the 19th century, however, that books hegan to appear on the theory of the game. At around the same time, a general suspicion appeared to emerge that the player who moved first had too much of an advantage. More recently, thanks to the availability of computer analysis, it has been proved that there is a forced win for the player who starts, and that is where the history of the game becomes most interesting.

There are two options when you discover that a popular and challenging game has a hasic fault: you can throw it away, or

William Hartston discovers the thinking man's noughts and crosses

you can change the rules. Most of the world - including Britain - seems to have opted for the former solution. Five-in-a-row is still played here by schoolchildren who have moved beyond uld-fashioned noughtsand-crosses, but no form of it ever seems to have been taken seriously enough for formal competitions to have been instigated.

In Japan and some other countries, however, they repaired the game well enough for it to take its place alongside the traditional boardgames of Go and Shogi (Japanese chess). The rule-changes were made in 1899, when the name of the formal game was changed to Renju - which means "string of five pearls" in Japanese.

The new rules form a set of restrictions on types of move that the players are allowed to

simultaneously. And the simplest way to ensure that you

make. For example, the simplest way to ensure that you will form a line of five in a row is to form a row of four, open at both ends: -0000-. Your opponent cannot block both threats

will he able to form such a row of four is to form two distinct open-ended rows of three (in different directions) with a single move. The new rules specified a 15 by 15 board and banned such "double-three" formations. They also hanned "double-fours" and "overlines" (lines of more than five in a row), and anyone making such a formation would lose the game instantly. This introduced a new possibility to win a game by creating a threat that could only be met by making one of the proscribed patterns.

The new game of Renju was rapidly seen as more than just a repair of the traditional Gomoku. It was a game of strategy in its own right. And its respected alongside those of other traditional Japanese board games. In the novel "The Master of Go" by Yasunari Kawabata (available in the Penguin Modern Classics series) there is an account of an exclusive gathering at the opening ceremony of the 1938 world Go championship match: "All told,

Games people play Pandora Melly discovers soccer therapy.

Edward Tudor-Pole, 38, actor and Let's go forward, back to the Crystal Maze master.

Let me tell you, the game I like Lplaying is football with my mates. Now you might think that's highly unlikely, because at school I was the cliche weed, but I've got a photograph to show you: me and a couple of the team taken by myself when we'd just finished playing in last week in Regent's

I learnt to play football in 1989 because I was suffering from a hroken heart - a badly broken heart - and some chums said come and play football".

It takes me back to when I did

my first ever gig with a hand, I was looking forward to it because I thought I was so mercurial, and I can tell you that before the end of the first song I wanted to stop because I was absolutely exhausted. So I started to go running so I'd be a bit fitter. When you run, it hurts at first, then you get this terrific rush from the endorphins. That was 1978. brokeo heart.

Some of these football chums were quite rough, and we played on concrete. They knew I was sad because I'd been deserted, but they never talked about it, they just played football with me and it was as though someone was putting their arms around me very comfortingly. All that summer we played football and got increasingly fit; each of us

thrumming with endorphins. But this is the crux: if you invite someone to play, they reveal everything about their character. You sometimes think, "Hey, well, I don't like this fellow." Some people play like professionals, you know, jostling and fouling and such. After about a year of this, I was much comforted and started to get better. I put it all down to

Premier League footballers use the Mitre Ultimax professional standard matchball, £19,99 from Lillywhites (0171-915-4000).

Don't junk it ... use it From lager can to curved picture frame



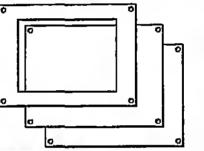
This design is a cheap and cheerful way to create frames for those pictures that don't quite deserve the expense of huying one ready-made. All you need is an empty lager can, some pieces of cardboard, beavy-duty scissors and some string (ideally elastic)

As a handy tip, I can recommend starting with a full lager can. It helps get you into the right mood.

First empty the lager can. Then, using a heavy pair of scissors, cut off the top and bottom and cut down Flatten out the rectangle of metal you have just

created. Measure the margins to the required size, and cut out the centre section. Use a pair of pliers to fold and crimp the edges flat.

Quite apart from giving the frame a more finished look, this avoids the danger of cutting yourself on sharp edges.



Cut two pieces of cardboard slightly smaller than the frame. then punch holes in the corners of cardboard and frame. String together with elastic string and toggles, or use ribbon or plain string. By pulling the string light, you can give the frame an

Original curved shape which also helps it to stand up on its own. (Which may be more than you can manage yourself, if the first few lager cans refuse to cooperate with your intentions) Finally, if still sober, you can decorate the finished frame by

tapping or scribing designs onto it. Bawn O'Beime-Ranelagh

The games page is edited by William Hartston

Chess William Hartston

Deviants take note: on 4 January in Hastings, the British Chess Variants Society was formed and a new respectability was created for the previously disorganised world of

deviant forms uf chess. The various fields of interest of the new society are well illustrated in its own journal "Variant Chess" which appears four times a year (subscription £8.00). The current issue contains articles on Losing Chess, where the object is to lose all your pieces. where the rules specify mandatory capturing. Cylinder Chess, where you play on a normal board hut imagine it wound round into a cylinder with the afile and h-file joined, and Progressive Chess in which White plays one move, then Black two, White three and so on. No checks allowed before the final move of any.

Like most chess fanatics, I had played all these versions when I was at school, hut never realised how much they had been analysed and developed as valid forms of the game. Here are some examples of the sort of things deviancy can offer that straight chess cannot. First, a game of Losing Chess won by a computer program.

White: IZNOGOUD Black: R Salvadori 1 e3 b5 2 Bxb5 c6 3 Bxc6 Nxc6 4 b4 Nxb4 5 a4 Nxc2 6 Qxc2 Qc7? (the losing

move!) 7 Qxc7 Rh8 8 Qxd7 Rxbl 9 Rxb1 Kxd7 10 Rh7 and Black resigned because of 10...Bxb7 11.Ke2 Bxg2 12.Bh2 Bxh1 13.Bxg7 Bxg7 14.c4 Bxc4 15.d4 Bxd4 16.Kd2 Bxf2

Apparently, 1.e3 is thought to be the hest opening move (all other moves of central pawns have been shown to lead tu a forced loss), though 1.b3. 1.b4. 1.g3 and 1.g4 are also well considered.

17.Nf3 Bxf3 18.Kd1 Bxd1

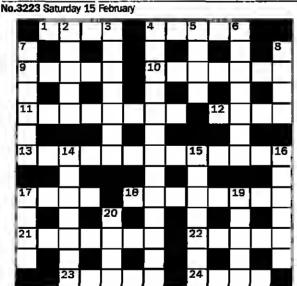
19.h3 Bxa4 20.h4.

For real deviation, however, I can recommend Chess. Try this game remember, the number of moves per player goes up by one each time, and the edges of the hoards are joined so, for example, the f1-h3 diagunal continues along a4 to e8. White: G Cornacchini

Black: G P Jelliss 1 g4 2 g5, Bxd2+; (the hishop emerges scamlessly from ho tu a5 and continues on its way) 3 Bxd2, Ba4, Bxf7+; 4 Kxf7, Nf6, Nc4, Nxd2; 5 Qxd2, Qxd7, Qxc8, Qxd8, Kd2: 6 h5, hxg4, g3, gxf2, fxg1=Q, Rxd8+:7 Ke3, Na3, Nb5, Nxc7, Raxgl. Rfl mate.

For further information ahout the British Chess Variants Society, contact GP Jelliss, Top. Floor. 63 Eversfield Place, \$1 Leonards on Sea, East Sussex, TN37 6DB,

concise crossword



ACROSS

- German car (4) Hasten (5) Jewelled headdress (5)
- 11 Guitar-player's accesso-12 Remain (4)
- 13 Promotion (13) 17 Ineffectual type (4) 18 Room heater (8)
- 21 Paper-folding (7) 22 Drive (5)
- 23 Small and delicate (5) 24 Every (4)

DOWN

- Rub out (5) Hire agreement (7) Optical illusion (13) 10 Erudite (7) Wander (4)
 - Chinese river (7) Fictitious work by Thomas More (6) Nervous (4)
 - 14 Blood-sucking bat (7) 15 Building (7) 16 Excite (6)
 - 17 Forest (4) 19 Theme (5) 20 Part of leg (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Stirred, 5 Hilly (Sturdily), 8 Enemy, 9 Longbow, 10 Pretend, 11 Okapi, 12 August, 14 Strong, 17 Strum, 19 Recital, 22 Engulfs 23 Drawn, 24 Elder, 23 Stretch, DOWN: 1 Sheep, 2 leeberg, 3 Rhyme, 4 Delude, 5 Handout, 6 Libra, 7 Yawning, 12 Austere, 13 Similar, 15 Outest, 16 Crisps, 18 Rigid, 20 Cedar, 21 Lunch.

Bridge Alan Hiron

four masters were in the

last match."

two Estonians.

assembly: on Shusai's left,

Sekine, thirteenth in the line of

Grand Masters of Shogi, as well

as Kimura, Master of Shogi, and Takagi, Master of Renju, all

hrough together for this, the commencement of the Master's

slow to spread beyond Japan.

Federation was formed in 1988

and international tournaments

are now held in Japan, Sweden,

Armenia, Azerhaijan, Latvia and

Russia, According to the current

rating list, the world's top twenty

four Russians, two Latvians and

Surely it is just the sort of game

players include 12 Japanese.

But why has Renju never

become popular in England?

population of game-players. I

suspect the answer is as simple

as the game itself. One can get

because it is a team game and

Backgammon and poker players

are admired for their ability to

gamble without flinching. One

can now (thanks to the efforts of

Nigel Short) describe oneself as

a chessplayer without inviting

looks of pity. But Renju? Deep

down, games players like to be taken seriously. Noughts and

crosses is a step far.

therefore ostensibly sociable.

away with playing hridge

to appeal to our large

The International Renju

The game, however, has been

North-South game; dealer East North **4**Q972. ♥A K 10 3 OAK4 **A**A654 ♥Q9762 **∳**8 ₹J5 OJ 1093 ♦865 **♣**A Q J 9 8 7 **♠**KJ103 ♦Q72

North had an awkward decision to make on this deal from matchplay. East opened a rather heavy (by modern standards) 3♣ hut his choice lay between Three and Five, because 4 would have meant something quite different a strong pre-empt in hearts.

Now what do you do with the North hand after two passes? Double to suggest the major suits, or hid 3NT to protect • K from immediate attack? One North decided to double ad, after a response of 3 h by South, pushed on to the spade game. West's lead of DJ against Four Spades was significant. Why had he not led his partner's suit?

Mixed doubles:

The above sentence hides three loosely connected answers. All you have to do to find them is arrange the six words into three pairs, then rearrange the letters within each pair. The first correct answer opened on 26th February will South got matters right: playing carefully he won in hand and led ♠ 10. West played low and the fall of East's eight strongly suggested a 4-1 trump break. Two top hearts were followed by a beart ruff, dummy was reentered with a top diamond, and another heart was ruffed in hand. The dummy reversal was complete. Eventually declarer lost two club tricks and the ace of trumos. At the other table, North took

a different view when he reopened with 3NT rather than double when East's pre-empt came round to him. All passed and the passive diamond lead from East left declarer looking at only eight tricks. He won in hand and knocked

out A hut was still looking for his ninth trick. I hope that you found the same solution that North did at the table. He decided that his best chance was to find East with a 1-2-3-7 distribution and, after cashing everything available, he led . K! East now had no exit cards and, at the end, the \$10 became declarer's ninth winner. In spite of his neat play, North found himself losing 1 i.m.p on the

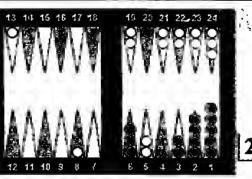
Perplexity

Inn creates furriest green satin

win a copy of the new Chambers 21st Century Dictionary. Answers to: Perplexity, the Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

BEANS+POTATO = SPROUT works out as 36942+189908=217850 or 34962+180908=215870 Winner: H Lazda (Wokingham)

Backgammon Chris Bray



Here's a difficult play which I got wrong when it came up at the Double Fives the other day. Black has a 4,2 to play in this position. There were three choices: (a) 20/14 (b) 20/16, 6/4 (c) 6/2, 3/1

Over the board I made the fateful (and common)

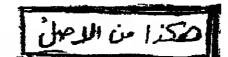
mistake of choosing a move without first deciding my plan, and compounded this error by forgetting to consider the position of the cube. I should have remembered Goulding's first law: "Have a plan-consider the cube, evaluate the candidate plays".

So let's do it the right way: What is Black's plan? He is way ahead in the race - 57 pips to 102 pips. As he has no priming potential and his home board cannot be strengthened it seems that Black's plan should be to play for the race. This indicates either play (a) or (b). What about the cube? Although Black leads the race by a long way he cannot double yet as his man on White's 5-point still has a long way to travel to reach his own home board. However, if Black can advance the man part of the way without being hit then he will have a strong redouble.

What about candidate plays? The three identified above are really the only possibilities. Given that we have decided to play for the race, play (c) can be discarded: it does nothing to make progress in the race and at the same time weakens the home board. Play (a) hrings the man closest to home hut leaves 26 shots. Play (b) makes slightly less progress in the race but leaves only 21 shots. After either play (a) or play (b) provided he doesn't get hit. Black will have a strong redouble which White might be able to take depending upon what his own roll was.

As Black will have a redouble after either play it is correct to leave fewer shots and therefore the correct play is (b). Over the board I made the awful play (c) ignoring one of my own lessons: in backgammon you must play to win rather than play not to lose.

TURN TO PAGE 31... for the weather, sky at night, Jasper Rees on TV, Robert Hanks on radio and Damion Hurts the cartoon sage of artistic angst



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'Greatest hits?

Her only

British hit

was the

notorious "Je

T'aime... Moi

Non Plus". A

duet with her

lover Serge

Gainsbourg

which

featured a lot

of orgasmic

breathing'

expectancy hangs over the

room, as though a formidably

regal presence were on its

Then the door crashes open and a ragged schoolgiri sweeps

in. Her hair is long, her foot is

light and her eyes are wild - la belle dame sans merci in a shapeless oatmeal sweater, jeans and trainers. Regarding

the suite without actually look-

ing at anybody in it (a useful

technique possibly acquired at Miss Ironside's legendary

Academy in Kensington, which she attended in the Six-

ties) she explains that she is

late because she was "stuck in

the tunnel", ie the Eurotunnel

- a perfect metaphor for the

half-way Franglais celebrity

whose only British hit was the

notorious "Je T'Aime... Moi

Non Plus" in 1969, a duet with

Birkin's lover Serge Gains-

bourg featuring a lot of orgas-

mic breathing and, if I may so

express it, an irresistible organ

riff? The Royal Festival Hall

for a singer with the vocal

range of a sparrow and the

emotional pitch of a nervous 14-year-old? Hah! You bring

up Ms Birkin's 50-movie film

career, much of it in the hands

of major art-house directors

such as Bernard Tavernier.

Agnes Varda and Bernard Blier, but these disobliging

commentators would express

the same disbelief. ("Oh, her

films? She got her kit off in Blow-Up, didn't she? And kept

it on for Death on the Nile ... ").

It's a tough break, but Ms

Birkin has never really man-

aged to convince British audi-

Françoise Hardy, the singer

The decision by Andrew

Lloyd Webber to close Sun-

set Boulevard is, at first sight,

compelling and moving, with

dramatic scores. Okay, I'm a

musical theatre terms 1 m a

curious. I found the show,

directed by Trevor Num,

one of Sir Andrew's most

softie. But at least, in

Jane Birkin has become.

March) and her forthe

o a fancy suite of the Royal Gardens Hotel in Kensington, the PR lady in the little black velvet oumber is looking anxious. Her charge is late - oot that late, but running over schedule. The tray of fresh orange juice, coffee and biscuits lies ignored on a table. The deep sofa looks freshly vacuumed but sadly unlivedin. An extremely pretty makeup artiste waits with eyeliner and hlusher poised. An air of

THE INDEPENDENT LONG WEEKEND - SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 1997

Let's got forward, back lone

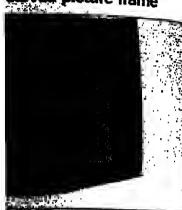
THE INDEPENDENT LONG WEEKE

Same of these football were quite rough and with on concrete. They knew the because I'd been descried by they never talked about it is her played hallfull with the was as though someone as make their arms around to formeringly. All that some Buted leathall and got goods. thrumming with endorping But this is the crue if you

someone to play, they real everything about their char You sometimes think Hear the dan't like this fellow Sometimes to the fellow Sometimes the fel people play like profession grave, jostling and fooling Buch. After about a year of was much comforted and and to get better. I put it all don

Premier League footballent, Mitre Ultimay professional standard matchball, £49.99 Lilbychites (0171-915-400)

... use it **Carved picture frame**



at charried way to create with don't quite deserve ready-made. All you need M misces of caraboard. me string (ideally elastic)

commend starting with a you into the right mood.

Then, using a heavy pair
and bottom and cut down

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ich also lichis it to stand up on is out thich may be more than you can many urself, if the first few lager cans refuse sperate with your intentions) Finally is per you can decorate the finished fine ping or scribing designs only it.

Bawn O'Beirne Rat

is edited by William Harts



difficult play which I got wrong when Double Fives the other day, Blackber this position. There were three choice

we board I made the factal tand one Choosing a move without his dealer compounded this error by togething the position of the cube. I should be red Coulding's list law "Have a plant the cube, evaluate the candible pasche if the right way: What is Black per chead in the race - 57 papers to the continuous management of t primary potential and his home had strengthened it seems that Blacks its play for the race. This indicates to the What about the cube! Although the white's 5-point still has a long wife ween his cont home beard. However, bessethe man part of the will be said be the sell have a strong reduction be will have a strong reduction. candidate plays. The three is in the case is the case play for the case, play for the cas

man closest to home higher man chosest to home rus miles slightly less progress in the latest slightly less than the latest slightly t get hit. Black will him to able him his own roll wis there sheds and therefore the where sheds and therefore ment the heard I made the amount for heart than play not to her

of artistic angst

new man. For an insider at Sir Andrew's Really Useful Group tells me that while Sunset Boulevard is a hugely expensive show to run, with the budget for Norma Desmond's handmade shoes and gowns alone running into hundreds of thousands of pounds, their own



research shows that cost is not the sole reason for closure. Most tellingly, my source says, men were not attracted to the show because they did not feel

comfortable with the idea of young man romantically attached to a much older woman. So there it is. Multimillion pound musical closes because of male insecurity.
One imagines the stalls full of those elderly biddies portrayed by Harry Enfield and chums, watching the male lead serenade Norma and cooing "Ooh, young man, young man."

The estimable Thelma Holt was quite rightly blowing a gasket when I spoke to her this week about the refusal by American Equity - who



standards in chauvinism to take her production of ADoll's House. They would not accept three of the actors and Perhaps Thelma, who has gave Thehna the bizarre rea-

son that as A Doll's House is not an English play it does not need English performers.

thrumming cellos and was a

wild success. One reason was

Oslo's theatreland, should take American Equity at its word and send over a troop of Norwegian actors to Broadway.

How art and life can become confused; libeliously so, to judge from the ioformation line provided by Warner's Cinemas. I rang up the line to find out the time Evita was showing, and the recorded announcement helpfully gave a synopsis of the film. "It is the epic story of the girl Madonna," the voice rather curiously began, "born the illegitimate daughter of a penniless farmer...

The French miss

this problem, though she never had a Number One single in England. Huppert and Adjani may be directed by the same directors but they're not treated as if they're just lucky (and they oever appeared to the stage of the National Theatre, as Birkin did, playing Andromache in She is over here to publicise The Trojan Women in 1995 to

her greatest hits album (out 31 excellent reviews). Ms Birkin has been a hardconcert at the Festival Hall on 15 April At the mention of all-round French media tarte sonic cavity with passionate both these enterprises, you for more than 30 years, but her reminiscence. Her voice is can detect a faint collective reputation stays firmly lodged pitched at a querulous, insisraising of an cycbrow from on just one side of the Chan-tent but not unmusical high

the street and is never off the

telly, which once featured a

whole "Birkin night". She is

the embodiment, as far as the

French are concerned, of Eng-

lish charm. And if one has

reservations about her acting,

there's no doubt about the

mother, who is lodging in a lit-tle - how do you say? - flat because her house hurned

down. No, she's taking it

extremely well, actually. I wor-

ried that she might be depressed that everything she

owned had gone up in smoke.

She was eating fish and chips

with the firemen, glad that it was not her fault, and saying that she felt 'lighter'. So I fol-lowed Ma's example and sold

my house in Paris and moved

into a wee apartment in St Germain. Just decided to get

with hitting 50? "No, it coin-

"Yes, I'm staying with my

Greatest hits? From a woman adored, lionised, stopped in

ences of her multiple talents. out of it all." Did it coincide

John Walsh meets...

Jane Birkin

body I thought was perfectly divine and finding an apartment opposite where he lives."
Is it love? "Certainement. And now you must ask me a proper question."

She really talks like that -en grand vitesse - full of little verworking actress, singer and does colonise it, filling every

hal slaps and tickles and Frenchified syntactical manglings. She is far too charming to seem to monopolise the rsation, but she certainly

Hepburn. She plays constantly

eyes - which do at last occa-

sionally look at mine, with a disconcertingly beautiful alien

I said the weekend papers

had been full of how much the

French supposedly love le style

Anglais, as embodied by

Alexander McQueen, John

Galliano, Terence Conran and

Stella Tennant. Did she notice

any new wash of admiration

for the Brits? "Oh, but they've always had it. And I've always

been longing for it to be vice versa. When I arrived there 30

years ago, the greatest thing was to be Eoglish, to have an

English accent, English

teeth... the music was English.

the fashion was English." But

weren't we equally keen on

glow at their centre.

paintings of Braque at the RA, the intellectual cross-fertilisation inspected by Julian Barnes in Cross Channel... "It's happening a leetle," she said. "It could hardly have got much worse, could it? The name of Serge Gains-

trate a point about culture. Stick around - Mr Gainsbourg's name is to recur throughout the ensuing hour. Although he died at 62 of a heart attack, in 1991, Jane Birkin still carries a torch the size of the Olympic flame for her former beloved. He was 17 years her senior, and they split up in 1983, but she describes him and his work as if they were oewly newlyweds: "So funny, like Woody Alleo or Mel Brooks, so outrageous, so sad and terribly romantic, ooe of the most sentimeotal people. And he was someone who made his own fashion. with his little bare feet and his little white shoes." It's all a tiny hit private. She will talk about his public life at the tini-British culture vultures, nel. There, she is fêted, note, and her delivery weirdly est provocation, pointing nut time-warped into that Fifties that "the man whose name actressy mode favoured by springs to the lips, when these Joso Greenwood and Audrey young bands are talking about French singers, is Serge's" and with her chestnut hair, wind-"Children in schools are now ing it round her head and toubeing taught Serge's work. sling it coquettishly over her He's known to be the greatest

> say they consider him as great as Apollinaire." My ignorance of French literature means I have no way of confirming this; but until it becomes true, Ms Birkin will be an unstoppahle one-woman lobbying campaign. One curious result of this obsessiveness is that the Birkin song repertoire has hit an impasse; she displays no interest in singing songs by anyone hut Gainsbourg. "Phonogram brought out two records of mine last year," she says with

> a smile, "hut they said I

couldn't go on singing Serge's

songs because people had

already bought them three

times over. They said, 'You

poet... It's no exaggeration to

and a close friend, oever had cided with discovering some. French things lately, whether really must find somebody this problem, though she body I thought was perfectly it's the film of Ridicule, the else's stuff to sing'." else's stuff to sing'.

I said it seemed quite a good idea - maybe some selections from Evita would suit her extraordinarily teeny-weeny voice. "Yes, but I didn't want to," said Birkio, verbally stamping her foot. "The time wasn't ready. I still hado't bourg crops up often to illusdone enough with what Serge had given me, which were probably his most beautiful

Jane Birkin in 1970

that Serge Gainsbourg checked nut, "He was just a very unexpected father. We marched together on Stop the Death Penalty campaigns. He wasn't just a hero, but a social hero, too." Her mather was Judy Campbell, a singer and stage actress, and the first interpreter of "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square". Her father sang "My Favourite Thiogs" from The Sound of Music, "rather sweetly, in a tiny high voice that used to make us die laughing" and both parents loved musicals. especially Kismet. South Pacific and Guys and Dolls. Jane herself has wondered about a possible career on the musical stage but... "It's a great sadness for me that France is a songs. So I pinched other country I adore above all othsongs that Serge had written ers, but what a pity they don't for other people -for Adjani, like musicals. They get it all for Deneuve, the nnes he mixed up with operetta, which is of course nothing to do with it. Sometimes 1 try to sell a wrote before he was 30 when he was in cabaret on the rive producer the idea of a musical gauche." She also ("Oh, the cunning of it?") got a new - I thought I'd got to the age artistic director to orchestrate at which to play the governess in The King and I - and the the selections for unusual instruments - for slide guitar, more I waded through the for harp - and a further colplot, the more it was as if I'd laborator to work on the stage brought something out of a show with tubular bells and

A precocious tecnager, a

"He said, 'It would help if you

smiled, if you wouldn't miod'.

He said, 'It does make a great

difference to the audience,

otherwise they start to feel ter-

tried it and it worked a

1946 and brought up in Lon-

don. Her father was a war

helped French Resistance on

the run. "Ma was waiting for

him in London, not under-

standing why he wasn't home

for their first Christmas

together. It was because he did

about 40 missions and never

made a mistake." Ms Birkin's

eyes shine proudly when she

talks of her dad, who died in

the same devastating week

She was born in December

some advice from the director was taken up by Binkie Beauremains clearly a little hurt to the melancholic chanteuse: mont, the legendary producer and friend of Noel Coward (who used to write songs for her mother) and found herself on stage at 17 playing a deaf mute (very much against type) ribly responsible for you'. So I in Graham Greene's Curving a Stone with Ralph Richardson. After appearing in the girls' school-brothel comedy musical The Passion Flower Hotel, she didn't return to the Instead, she was romanced by John Barry, composer of a

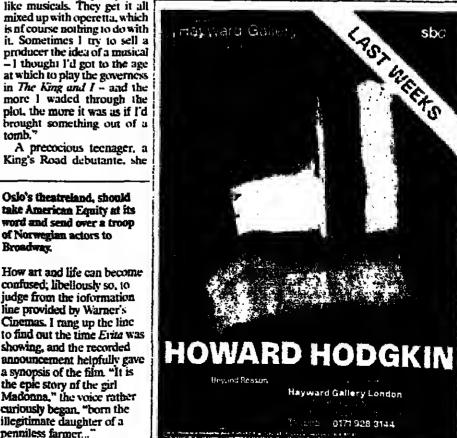
million film scores (and the James Bond theme) whom she married at 18, had a child by (Kate) and divorced at amazing speed. Visiting Paris for an audition, the non-French-speaking Birkin encountered the scruffy, exophthalmic Bohemian Gainsbourg and that was that. They stayed together, the decadent white Russian composer and his classy English moli, for 13 years, epatant les bourgeois and becoming the nation's most cooed-over couple. They had fantastic rows in

When they split up, Birkin starred in Tavernier's These Foolish Things with Dirk Bogarde, who remains a friend, in La Belle Noiseuse with Michel Piccoli - and in 1980, playing an unglamorous frump in La Fille Prodigue, she fell for the director, Jacques Doillon, with whom she had a third child. Lou, who lives with her still.

Now she is 50, a fixture on French television (she says she is on some channel or other once or twice a week), she

that her real homeland never clasped her to its fickle bosom. "In France, you're family. If you're oo television, you're part of the family. They ask, 'How's Charlotte." How's your dog?". But of course I've never done anything very public in England. Once the concert is behind her, and her next stage appearance (in David Hare's play, Skylight, in Paris) she plans an unusual escape. "At the end of the year, I shall wrote another movie, and then start my wanderings. I want to have that year English talk of. the "gap year", and go to Africa and Vietnam and South America. There are these tiny pockers of French culture all round the world, and the people who stick up for French culture tend to be rather mad. as if they're sticking up for animals who're becoming extinct. And they all watch Canal-Plus Ithe French satellite TV station). And you find that you're better known in Burkina-Faso than in England."

What she's best at is being herself, a talent she has purlayed to the whole of France by seeming to embody the whole of England. If only it would work in her own backvard. "All the cultural attaches in these strange parts of the world," she said ruefully, "they have the hright idea of asking you over, 'to defend the French language'. It's somewhat to my surprise to find myself asked to defend the French language, I who have deformed it for so long... Ah, charmante,



arts & books

Jan Morris in Venice; Peter Levi in Greece..... 6 Bernard Crick attacks party propaganda; New York's mating game...... 7

Flying blind

Raymond Monelle looks for more than merely superficial charms

OPERA Die Fledermaus Theatre Royal, Glasgow

he last thing Scottish alinda, thoroughly physical and susceptible, with Peter Opera would want to Evans as a slinky and handfind in a review of its some Eisenstein, Andrew new Fledermaus would be a reference to its last produc-Hammond's Falke seemed tion - a clever-clever updatat first a bit recessive, but his ing to 1990s Glasgow and a spectacular flop. But clearly "Brūderlein" was a dream nf it was a chastening experience, and Giles Havergal, director of the new version. was given a clear brieft no fancy ideas, no left-wing iconoclasm, just plenty of pretty costumes and tradi-

tinnal nostalgia. There were, in fact, a few witty ideas. Alfred, the Italian tenor (camped up to the skies by Richard Coxon). constantly serenaded the heroine with extracts from famous nperas, including Adele, sang beautifully - a both Bohème and Turandot, which were presumably not familiar to Strauss or anybody else in 1874. Though most of the show was sung in English (the well-established Pouotney / Hancock translation), the Csardas was given in Hungarian with English surtitles, a hilarious

nperatic in-joke.

That apart, the sets were ravishing and the costumes unexceptionable, placing the piece a little later than its time of composition, perhaps about 1910. Havergal, director of Glasgow's Citizens' Theatre, is a resourceful man of the theatre, and he kept up a seamless flow of song-and-dance numbers and attractive tableaux, his designer (Kenny Miller) doing little more than paint huge flowers on the wallpaper and surround the stage with fairy lights.

Most of the cast had a nice, intuitive, light-footed swing; eventually the whole stage lilted and swayed to the rhythms of polka and waltz. Janis Kelly was a colourful, sumptuous Ros-

When it came to costuming Orlofsky, clearly nobody was ever going to disguise Anne Howells as a man, so she wore an intriguing com-bination of high boots and feminine décolletage that matched her mettlesome but seductive voice.

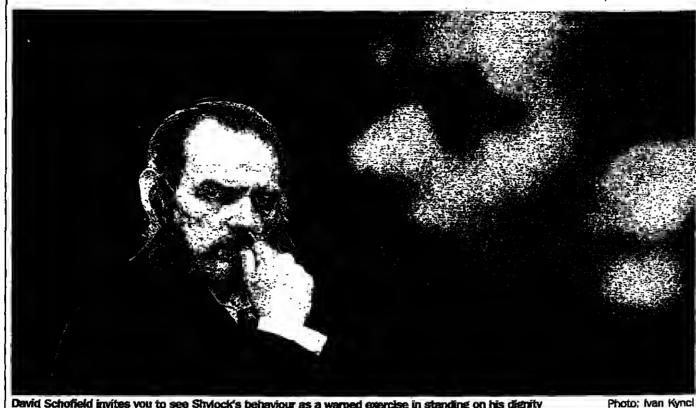
But success cannot be designed into a production, and this attractive show witoessed to the elusiveness of the work. Lisa Milne, as pearly "laughing song" - but her comic gifts extended no further than Glaswegian howls and catcalls. This sty, ironic operetta makes no sense as broad farce, aod neither Milne, Havergal, nor any of the others seemed to have grasped the danger and despair that lie hidden within it.

Instead they gestured and high-stepped along on the merest surface, where they were joined by a conductor, Nicholas Braithwaite, who groped vainly for the right style, jerking when he should have floated, never finding a convincing tempo nr any trace nf delicacy. With no message from the podium, the orchestra just sight-read. Maybe Fledermaus is about bad behavinur redeemed by generosity of spirit, or the sorrowful charm of a society that is slipping away. What-ever its sidelong and sophis-ticated content, it is vastly beyond the larks of a seaside concert-party.

Race on the Rialto

Paul Taylor on a new staging that does justice to Shakespeare's court drama

THEATRE The Merchant of Venice Birmingham Repertory Theatre



David Schofield invites you to see Shylock's behaviour as a warped exercise in standing on his dignity

n 1988, Bill Alexander directed an RSC ver-Shylock becomes a moving (yet never pathetic) sion of The Merchant of Venice with Antony figure. He's played here as rebarbatively hard Sher as a flamboyantly Levantine Shylock in and precise - so punctilious he even remembers to brush his knees after collapsing at the a city where Christians literally spat racial news of his daughter's abscoodment; so metichatred and where a Yellow Star of David was eventually sprayed, like some prefiguration of ulously well-briefed he doesn't need to look at the Holocaust, on the back wall. Returning to the bond when forced to check its details, he the play oow. Alexander happily avoids what just scrolls through it silently in his head. But this staging also amplifies our sense of the routine intimidations Shylock has to cope has become the nrthodoxy in the interim, of relocating The Merchant in the world of modern with. Salerio and Solanio mockingly imper-

banking. Presenting a genial, broadly assimi-lated City of Londoo Shylock always raised sonate his brief under his very window and kick more problems than it solved. For a start, Chrisat the door in a frenzy of contempt. Every time tian yuppies aren't ideally placed to look down he steps outside, there's danger in the air, and their noses at usury. And, if Shylock has inteyou can understand Shylock's behaviour, in this grated so successfully, why does he declare antiperformance, as a worped exercise in standing Christian loathing in his first scene? oo his dignity. Even when he has to pick himself up from the wreckage of the court case and hrave the boors at the exit, Schofield manages Set in period, in a dark, sinister Venice whose vistas are framed by decaying brick pillars, Alexander's new staging has the great roerit of keeping your feelings fluid throughout. Pre-

to keep a straight back and a measured tread. Cathy Tysoo is a warm, appealing heroine cisely because he makes no overt bid for audibut it's good that she does not downplay the fact that, with Shylock, Portia egregiously fails to practise what she has only just been preach-

ing about mercy. In the final act, she reveals a cropped head to Charles Edwards's excellent, anxious Bassanio, who strokes the boyish curls in some bemusement, as if this haircut obscurely complicates his emotional graduation from male friendship with Doo Warrington's absurdly plummy Antonio to marriage with her.

I had thought that my days of laughing at those tedious Gobbos were over, but here both father and soo are played in a West Indian accent and in what looks like a bizarre, expertly organised identity crisis by the rastalocked Jah-Man Aggrey. Martin Hutsoo also makes a hig impact as the Prince of Aragon.

The evening ends oo an uneasy note, After the other couples have trooped into Portia's house. Shylock's daughter finds herself alone in the garden with Antonio, who throws her a look of profound distaste. Beginning with a girl who is trapped by the dictates of her father's will, the play eods, in this account, with a girl doomed to carry the burden of her father's sins.

Birmingham Rep (0121-236 4455) to 8 March

Still waters run deep

A work about the mating game. Or so it seems to John Percival

DANCE Stream Rambert Dance Apollo, Oxford

hristopher Bruce calls his latest creation for Rambert Dance Company Stream. Many of us will, I suppose, identify it with the ever-rolling nne to which life is likened in the bymn. The shape of the work - the end echoing its beginning - suggests a con-tinuity into infinity, and the content (if 1 may use that word for dances that carry no specific plot) seems to confirm that impression.

The main part of Stream shows us two groups: four men and four women. The chaps first colonise the stage for themselves and fill it with tnugh, aggressive movement. But after the group of women has passed ritory. I sense a change of tone in what the men are doing, a slight jokiness in their blokiness, almost like moments in Bruce's Rolling Stones ballet Rooster. Or is it just that, influ-

enced by the feminine presence, we look at roasculine display differently, more ironically? Either way, the men take themselves off and the women now occupy the stage. Whereas the men stuck out for individuality even when acting as a group, there is more togetherness in the women's dancing, a gentle sense of supporting each other. This remains true even wheo just two of them are left alone, and makes Sheron Wray's subsequent solo even more melancholic in its solitariness.

Then comes a complete contrast. Philip Chambon's music, hitherto jauntily rhythmic for the men, audience responded warmly smoothly flowing for the women, suddenly sounds like a jolly Irish dance-hall, On tour, reaching London and both groups come together on stage, dividiog Theatre over Easter.

up into couples for what quickly develops from socialising into the mating game. So we know that even if time is going in bear us all away, life will continue.

As prologue and epilogue, we see life in the form of two duets. Patricia Hines and Jan de Schynkel start the piece, their couplings sometimes taking strange forms: she reclining while her feet seize his neck, he soon after holding her cheeks from behind and rocking her head from side to side.

The final entry is for Didy Veldman and Paul Liburd: he very cocksure and dominant at first, slippery as a lizard, but soon roaturing into a quieter steadiness, across the back of their ter-ritory. I sense a change of ner. And actually theirs is nnt quite the final entry, since the curtain falls on the opening couple repeating their arrival, the cycle

resuming.
That's how I see it, anyway, but Bruce's programme note tells how the creative process began as abstract movement ideas inspired by fragments of sound that Chambon provided before development into a full electronic score of noises suggesting machinery, nature and instruments melded into real music. The creators, Bruce says, found their nwn ideas and feelings about the work, hut he invites spectators to enjoy the movement for itself and to make their own interpretation. Sadly, we read, this proved beyond some speciators on Rambert's Russian tour, but an Oxford this week.

for a week at the Peacock

Further perfs: tonight, 18, 20, ence sympathy, David Schofield's splendid, 22 Feb (0141-332 9000) heavily accented and sardonically humorous * THE INDEPENDENT

THE FRONT

Next Monday The Independent introduces a new section, MEDIA+. Whether you are a bombarded civilian, a professional communicator or a wannabe (hungry for page after page of appointment ads) you miss it at your peril.



THE FILM THE PLAY The School Hamlet Suzanne Vega for Wives overview Not content with giving his Prince of Denmark three Having brought Jessica Lange to London for A Folk never sounded as chilly as when the former model times on stage to date, Streetcar Named Desire from New 'fork recorded her Kenneth Branagh directs and plays the lead in Hamlet the Peter Hall goes to the other end of the celebrity spectrum first album in 1985. Icily intelligent, her supporters argued. Yuppie mood music, countered the detractors. by casting Eric Sykes as a dotty old servant in Molière's movie. The screenplay is 100 per cent William Shakespeare. At 242 minutes Whatever, Vega has thawed out a bit now; and, to comedy of cuckoldry. Peter it's also almost completely Bowles stars as the uncut. A galaxy of stars support – from Billy Crystal to Jack Lemmon – in an merchant Amolphe, who's accompany the release of a forced to play the French hom. Gillian Kerney is his new album, Nine Objects of Desire, she has embarked attempt to bump up the film's US box-office appeal. wife-to-be, imprisoned to protect her chastity. upon a European and British tour. Adam Mars-Jones thought it deeply flawed but that the weak bits were "redeemed by the one decision that seems Glyn Brown had liked the Paul Taylor enthused: "Amolphe is a role that warmth of the new LP but felt requires the ability to listen it didn't work in concert: critical "Played against her delicate earlier stuff, the newer work comically... Bowles is perverse, even indefensible, the decision that is never hilarious at such moments. view Sykes, he added, exudes a tired with lengthy rock-outs from her backup boys, Vega almost drowned in the mêlée. delightfully knowing brand made in cinema: trusting the of benign amusement". The author." The Telegraph warmed to a film filled with Telegraph agreed: "one of the funniest shows in the West End." "Even if Bowles misses the sheer madness "Most moving when it is most conventional," judged the powerful performances: "You are unlikely to see a better Claudius than Derek Times. But the Guardian was less indulgent: "Mamage and which lan McDiarmid motherhood may have settled Jacobi's... Julie Christie is Vega and, she claims. brought to the role in the extraordinary.* It added: 1993 Almeida revival,* improved her voice. But the overall feeling was of a talent that has lost its edge." "Branagh [the actor) makes a wrote the Guardian, "he virtue of his limitations... [his] production follows his own lead.* But the Times felt vividly captures Amolphe's almost satanic cunning." "I "Sophistication seems to have went out touched and been achieved at the expense our Ken had gone too far to ol warmth and melody," the delighted," raved the 7imes. woo a young audience: "It's "Who could upstage Bowles in this mood? Not Sykes, Telegraph pontificated, "Few all rather exhausting," its critic wheezed. "I thought it of the new songs were as would bore me," confessed the Guardian. "But it didn't." approachable, or as engaging, as [the] old favourites." not all three Marx brothers, At a cinema near you. Bring on view At the Piccadilly Theatre, London W1 (0171-369 Tours to Nottingham a cushion, and make full use of the intermission. Birmingham, York, Manchester 1734) to 26 April. and Glasgow in March. our view A solid but hardly inspired Dane, and you'll squirm at Ranjit Bolt's pithy verse The sharp, bright beauty is still there but Vega seems to adaptation complements some of the some fine be striving for the cameos, such as performances. A impossible; to be a Robin Williams's return to form for rock chick who execrable Osric. DEADLY

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THE PARTY

THE INDEPENDENT LONG WEEKEND - SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 1997

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Suzanne Veg

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Somebody pick up the phone

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When Fluxus were dismantling artistic pomposity in the Sixties, Yoko Ono was there to lend a hand. Now it's the public's turn, at a new exhibition which documents those days. By Suzanne Moore







A piece of the 'Cut Piece' at the Yamalch 1964 (left); One performing Voice Place for soprano', New York, c1961 (centre); and One performing 'Cut Piece', again (right, photograph: Minoru Nuzama)

Ono is on stage, enveloped in clouds of fog from a smokemachine. She has invited the audience to wrap her in bandages while she murmurs: "I am here. Where are you?" In 1964, she exhibits "3 old paintings of Yoko Ono", There are no paintings, just instructions about possible paintings, including the memorable one "No critics, art dealers, or dogs allowed". In 1966, at the Indica gallery in London, she exhibited her Painting to Hammer a Nail. A guy asked her if he could hammer a nail. She told him it would cost him. "Then can I hammer an imaginary nail?" he asked. The guy was John Lennon. Yoko thought at the time: "I met a guy who plays the same game I played." They continued to play. In 1969 they stayed in bed for a week issuing various radical statements such as Grow your hair". This piece of art was called Bed Peacel Hair Peace. But was it

art? Was she serious?

of Ono in the Sixties and it attempts to demonstrate the breadth of the movement known as Fluxus, of which she was a part. Fluxus was not so much a movement as a united front dedicated to purging art of its pretentiousness, its commodification, its heroism. Its foundation lay in the late Fifties. Remember: this was the time of Abstract Expressionism, with artists from Pollock to De Kooning presenting themselves or being presented as heroic, individual geniuses, struggling

Art history is usually of the "who dunnit first?" genre. So, if you want, Fluxus was founded in 1961 by a group of artists including Kate Millet, Nam June Paik and Ben Vantier. I prefer the version of events given by sometime member Emmet Williams in his book My Life in Fluxus and Vice Versa. In 1962 George Maciunas, a Lithuanian-born agent- tionism, DIY instead. provocateur, said: "Let there be Fluxus and then there was Fluxus ever after."

magine. It's the mid-Sixties. Yoko hition is twofold; it documents the work cerned with the origins of the Fluxus own anatomy. But men are so serious." species. He likes Man Ray's take on it all. What could sound more natural and less pompous, more matter-of-fact and less contrived, than his simple assertion that he made Dada when he was a baby, and

his mother roundly spanked him for it?" Certainly childishness, vaudevillian humour and simple gags were part of the Fluxus ethos, but what are all these Fluxus fossils doing in a gallery-like space? Wasn't the idea to break down such institutions in the first place? I wanted to ask Yoko about this but unfortunately the phone didn't ring while I was there, so I couldn't. If you are so inclined, it is easy enough to fit Fluxus into a traditional art-history narrative which places this strange little movement after Dada and as a precursor to conceptual art. video art and minimalism. But maybe that's too serious. Think punk, situa-

One berself was misunderstood by in it. Once a day, the phone will ring and Williams, who was later to be denounced herself as well as at the pomposity of the it'll be Yoko herself calling up to chat for for his "anti-collective attitude, excessive male art world. In 1967 she wrote up the phone. The purpose of the exhi- [and] prima donna complex", is not con- male of the species discovered through his artist was as important as reducing any or fluid discharge from the bowels or Cemn. London SE1, to 23 Mar

Certainly Ono was ridiculed at the time for both her art and her music. To read Albert Goldman's book on Lennon is to read an account of overt racism. One is described as "simian". There are descriptions of her "pendulous breasts" and her slitty-eyed inscrutability, Musically, however, she has now been rediscovered. I went to see her last summer singing with her son Sean Lennon's band. There she was, this 62-year-old woman, still rocking out, still making those weird bat noises, still singing songs about dying, abused children. My friend remarked at the

time. "She is the youngest person in the room." And, in a way, she was. Now we realise that, without Yoko, there could have been no Björk, no PJ Harvey, no Diamanda Galas. The art, however, is something different. It appears naive, innocent, whimsical. We are so used to conceptual art that

no one will be much shocked at anything other Fluxus collaborators. Her Cut Piece, they see in the Royal Festival Hall ballpoint of chaos. The idea was that "any-

"commodity" or "institutional value". So other part, especially an excessive and we can all be artists. It has to be said that, at many Fluxus performances, there were more performers than artists. Where Fluxus was different from today's art scene, however, was in its concerted effort to break down national boundaries and in this it succeeded.

If Fluxus has the life knocked out of it by trying to institutionalise it, then we can see the spirit of Fluxus today in Gavin Turk's blue plaques, in Sarah Lucas's Two Fried Eggs and a Kehab and in Douglas Gordon's 24 Hour Psycho. No one bothers to ask any more "Is n art?" Indeed, one definition of art is "Can it be sold?" and. as everything can be sold, so everything can be art. Like the much-vaunted "death of the author", we have not witnessed anything like the death of the artist, they are more culturally revered than ever before. Perhaps, as George Brecht wrote in 1964, "Fluxus encompasses opposites. Consider opposing it supporting it ignoring it,

changing your mind." Well, yes and no. If you want to ask her.

There could have been no Fluxus within, you can talk to her yourself. An exhibition now at the Royal Festival Hall entitled "Yoko Ono and Fluxus" has a phone

There could have been no Fluxus with what Beuys called its the invited an audience to cut was art or not, because here at last was uncome, Fluxus, with what Beuys called its the count the New Music of John Cage, the hap-ber clothes off, was read as an exercise in female victimisation rather than any-separated itself from the aesthetic cate-bourgeois sickness" as well as to "pormote" bourgeois sickness as we a revolucionary flood and tide in art'. it'll be Yoko herself calling up to chat for for his "anti-collective attitude, excessive male art world. In 1967 she wrote thing can be art and that anyone can do Grand aims for a movement whose name half an hour or more to anyone who picks individualism, desire for personal glory "Humour is probably something that the it". The non-professional status of the was chosen because it means to flowing

Igor Stravinsky listening

morbid discharge... It is sad to see these groovy Series relies eneased in glass, which they were never meant to be, Ben Vautier's box has painted on it "This box contains an idea so important that it could change art". We couldn't open the box even if we had the key because the box is now an exhibit in a glass case.

Perhaps Lennon hit the imaginary nail on the head and Fluxus was always about banging imaginary nails into the coffin of the art establishment. There are, in the Royal Festival Hall show, some real nails with which the real British public bave pinned to the wall Tube tickets, nappies and Hula Hoops packets. They have also written, amongst other things. "Yoko, you always were a bore and a Fraud", "What's with the arses", "OPR - top London club", "The exhibition next door is better than this one", "Yoko Psycho" and 'Adam, Fuck Me Now". It brought a smile to my face, so it didn't matter whether it

'Yoko Ono and the Fhous Movement': Dam 10.50pm daile, Ballroom, Main Fover, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank

1997... and counting

In three years, 20th-century music ceases to be contemporary, Stephen Johnson meets the composer the BBC has drafted in to remove our fear of the new

have noticed a glint in his eye in recent months. Is it glee, or terror? Probably both: after all, he has set himself, and the BBC, an extraordinary challenge for the next three years. Sounding the Century, a grand survey of music composed in the 20th Century, begins tomorrow night with a performance of that ultimate ground-breaker, Stravinsky's Rite of Spring conducted by Pierre Boulez, and lasts until the end of 1999 – plus a "morniog after" celebration on I January 2000, with a mass premiere of new works by composers from 20 countries brought logether under the aegis of the European Broadcasting Union.

As yet, not everything is in place. At this stage, Sounding the Century still looks like a steadily unrolling carpet, with certain elements in the pattern sketched out in advance, others still waiting to be woven in. As with the BBC's annual Proms season, overall responsibility for what goes into Sounding the Century has been handed over to one person - in this case, the composer George Benjamin. But, with just one person at the helm, can the series offer a truly balanced overview, or will the selection inevitably be partial?

"It shouldn't be partial," says Benjamin - mindful, no doubt, of the flack Simon Rattle recently attracted when he left Elgar and Vaughan Williams out of his own personal survey of 20th-century music, Leaving Home, on Channel 4. "But, equally, I haven't been asked here just to make a dog's dinner of everything. The project must have character, flavour to it. Of course, all the major currents of the century will be represented, generously. But certain things will be covered which I think are important, which perhaps wouldn't have featured if someone else had beeo asked. Plenty of people are simply against modern music today, and if you'd asked X or Y to do it, they might have left out modernism altogether - especially post-war modernism. But the world would be so much poorer without some of that music."

Yes, there does seem to be a growing number of people who want to pretend that the 20th century hasn't really happened - that it's possible to treat the "Death of God", Schoenbergian serialism, modern science and moral relativism as some kind of a bad dream from which we can now awake and go on as before. "It's certainly the case in music," Benjamin agrees, "I heard

a very famous conductor - a really big name - on the radio the ple need to put all the strands in one box." other day saying that everything went wrong with Tristan. There's a lot of narrow-mindedness and a lot of nostalgia. I think one mustn'i underestimate the effect of the end of the millennium on everyone's imagination. Think how most of us feel at the end of a year - the regrets as well as the attempts to look for-

hose who know Radio 3 Controller Nicholas Keayon may ward - and then translate that on to a 1,000-year scale! That Repertoire Group that the idea must be one reason why people are more retrogressive than usual at the moment.

Retrogressive thinking - or just "Back to Basics"? (Well. we all know what happened to that.) But Benjamin's language does seem to imply a moral position. Does he feel that in music there are good and bad, "healthy" and "unhealthy" trends? "That's not the kind of terminology I'd ever use when describing music. The story of 20th-century music is that there are diverse streams. Even if you take the 19th century, you find Mussorgsky, Verdi and Wagner working at the same time – all undeniably great opera composers and yet there's no neat way you can group them together. The diversity of the 20th century is one of its unique riches - the breakdown of common conventions, the growing liberty of the individual in society which is reflected in the arts - it's all to the good. It's partly for that reason that this is the century whose music I love the most, and my cnthusiasm bubbles over at the thought of being involved in a project like this, and trying to represent the century fairly, rather than imposing an overall view that must be swallowed."

One of the consequences of this century's increasing diversity is that it becomes harder to draw clear lines between High Art and Popular Art. It could at least be argued that some of the classic jazz recordings of the 1950s and 1960s reveal a higher level of sophistication than much of the music being "composed" now. Does Benjamin think the old distinction is worth retaining? "Aaaagh! This is one of the anguished topics of the 20th cen-

tury. Is serious music created in a purist's paradise of hermetic perfection, or do we prefer the postmodernist paradise of simply embracing everything? Both positions sound wonderful in theory, and both are - usually - extremely disappointing in practice. We'll be looking at the opening up of the Western classical tradition to a whole load of influences that have shaken it up - Balinese gamelan music, Indian, Chinese, African jazz... You couldn't possibly ignore Stravinsky's jazz music - but that's still very much 'composed'. I do think there's a difference between art music and other kinds of music. That doesn't mean that one is greater than the other, but I do strongly feel that there is an evolving classical tradition, and I don't see why peo-

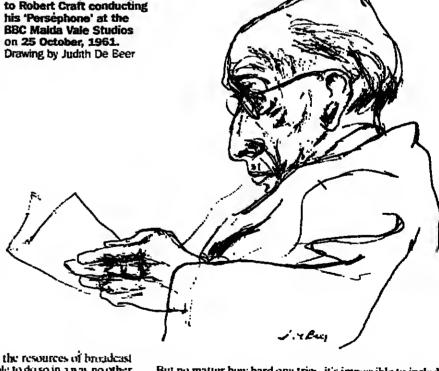
So was Sounding the Century born of a crusading spirit? As so often, there were practical influences too: 1997 sees the 50th anniversary of the Association of British Orchestras (ABO), an organisation that, of course, includes the BBC's own five orcheseven be open in 1999? And, of course, this is supposed to be a

nationwide broadcast concer began to take shape. It meant, fo that the Philharmonia Orch South Bank Ligeti festival Cloc Clouds (which begins on Wedne could be drawn under the la umbrella of Sounding the Cenmajor projects still developing a spirit of co-operation rather il that other, omnipresent C-word petition.)

II was, says Nicholas Kenyor of Radio 3's year-long Britisl Fairest Isle in 1995 (the Purcell I encouraged him to go for some "If there is one time to look hac

is surely now," he says. "And, with the resources of broadcast and commercial recording, we're able to do so in a way no other century could have imagined. But if there is a kind of crusiding spirit behind it, it's the desire to challenge the idea that modern music is a problem. Nobody's saying there haven theen any serious dangers this century - for instance, the way some music has lost touch with audiences. But now we can see that any claims of a 'true path' or of 'genuine' 20th-century music are just wrong. Strauss, Puccini and Rachmaninov are just as much 20th-century composers as Schoenberg, Stravinsky and Bartok, and they'll be there too. We should celebrate the diversity, not shy away from it."

One of the biggest headaches, says Kenyon, is the paring of this three-year celebration. "We've got to keep the momentum going - and what will the climax be? It's easy to pick out individual highlights: the London premiere of Boulez's ...explosar::fixe... [this Friday, courtesy of the London Sinfonicity at the Queen Elizabeth Hall]: the Ligeti festival; the recital surveys of 20th-century song, Singing the Century; the premiere of Nichalas Maw's new opera Sophie's Choice; and the revivals of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's Tavemer and Hans Pfitzner's Pulestring - there's a contrast for you! But keeping a sense of overall shape and purpose is going to be a challenge. There's the question of talks, a documentary series, debates, possible books or leaflets. And then tras, and it was in discussions among the ABO's recently formed nation-wide event - we mustn't let it get too metropolitan.



But no matter how hard one tries, it's impossible to include everything - certainly not everything being written now. Certain living composers will be left out, and mevitably there will be wounded mutterings of BBC blacklists, or personal vendettas. How does George Benjamin feel about taking responsibility for that? "It bothers me a lut. All I can say is that I take advice from colleagues on what to include. And there's also what other people want to play. It's a collaboration. If an ensemble or an orchestra or a soloist comes up with a comincing programme, I'll go with it. Still, you're right. I'm sure some people will be hurt. You can't avoid it." Benjamin sighs so deeply that I feel a momentary twinge of guilt for askme the question at all. He perks up, though, when I ask how it feels to be - albeit temporarily - an employee of the BBC. Weird! It's strange to be un the other side. I've passed from being a teenager, wondering if this massive edifice will ever notice me, to getting pieces broadcast, and now to deciding whn gets broadcast! I've even eaten in the canteen. Well, it's for a fixed time, and then I'll be gone. Still, it makes you grateful that Radio 3 and its orchestras exist - because who else could put on a project like this?"

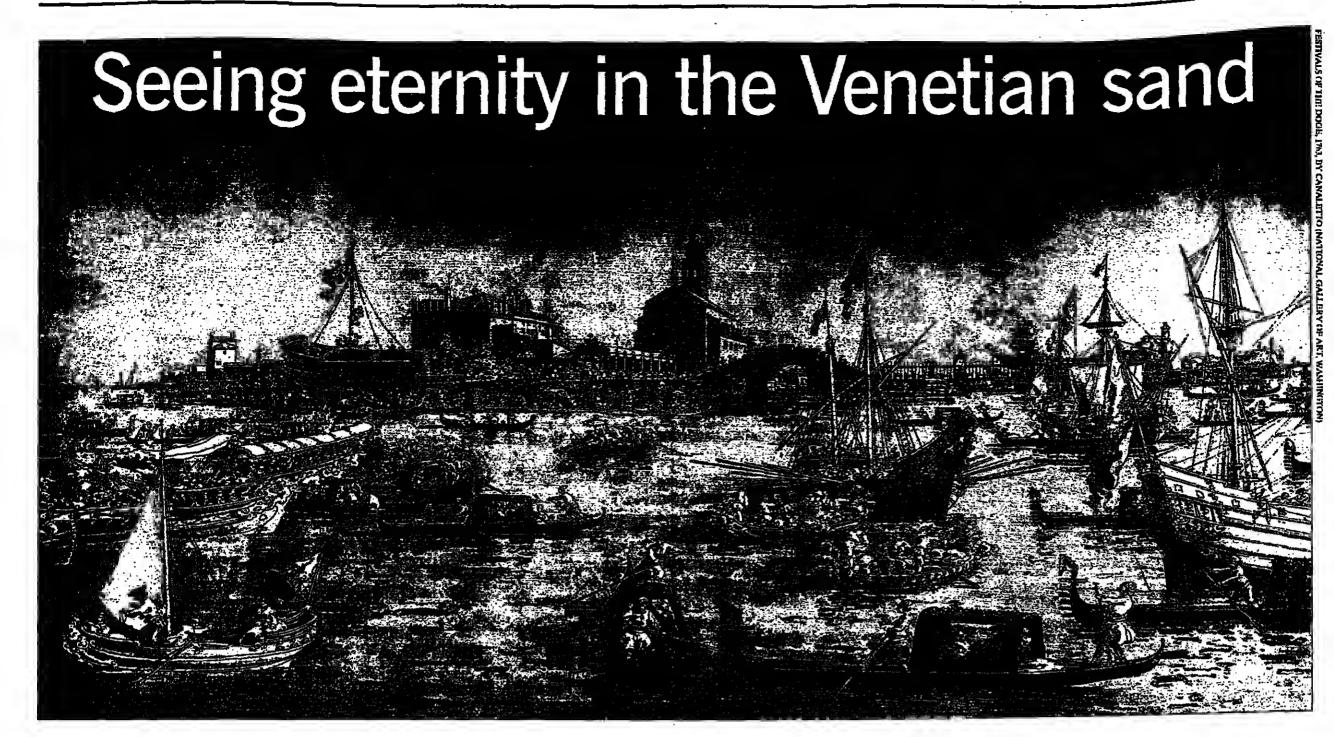
Sounding the Century starts 7.30pm tomorrow with Pierre Boules conducting the BBC Symplomy Orchestra in an all-Stravinsky concert broadcast hire on BBC Ratho 3 and BBC2 from the Royal Festival Hall, SRC, London SE1 (0171-960 4242)

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Jan Morris sifts through the myths of a city where history was as clear as mud

his is an academic work, by an associate professor at Princeton, dressed up in the Yale manner as a sumptuous coffee-table book. As such it will give pleasure to all classes of Venerian aficionado except perhaps those who believe that Venice is ill-served without some element of careless rapture. If you weary of the style (Professor Brown is no John Julius Norwich) you will certainly enjoy the lavish, varied and elegantly disposed pictures. If you find vourself overwhelmed by the mass of incidental evidence, the bold main theme of the book is sure to interest you.

It concerns, au fond, the Venetian relationship with time. It starts with a plaque on a pulpit at Torcello wall of Ca' Bembo, in the sestiere of Canareggio, of a primitive holding a solar disc, a figure of eternity. Professor Brown's thesis, develallusion, is that the Venetians more or less made up their own time. A

Venice and Antiquity: the Venetian sense of the past by Pabicia Fortini Brown, Yale University Press, £45

people of opportunism from the very stort, by trial and error, fraud and imagination, by grabbing the passing chance and exploiting even the most improbable allegory, they created in the end the myth of a City-State that seemed eternal. Venice has preserved her independence during eleven centuries", Voltaire wrote, "and I flatter myself will preserve it for ever".

The original problem was that Venice started from scratch, as a community of people driven out of the mainland into the islands of the lagoon in the aftermath of the illustrating Kairos, the classical Roman Empire. It could claim no wheeled figure of Opportunity, classical origins, like most Italian Roman Empire. It could claim no being seized by the hair by a youth; cities. It was a mixed bag of Rome, having been founded in an descent from Rome. This at least meant that it had no pagan roots either, so the obvious thing to do was to project itself as a Christian oped with an infinity of scholarly city of God. Chroniclers learnt to emphasise that the Venetians had been driven into the lagoon not by

the Christian Lombards, but by the impious pagan Attila, frequeotly portrayed with horns; and presently the miraculous discovery of the relics of St Mark, bursting from a column in the Basilica, proclaimed Venice a prouinely appealolle city. It had been founded on the day of the Annunciation - March 25, also the day when God made Adam - and there was ohviously something providential about its peculiar situation and ever-growing prosper-

ity there in the watery wastes.

The Renaissaoce, seducing Venetians as it seduced all other Italians, changed the perspective tather, and made paganism fashionable again. Petrarch was all the rage in Venice. Now Venetian aristocrats liked to claim Roman pedigrees, and it was often claimed that Venice was actually older than many another European people even the distant Welsh - the Venetians toyed with the idea of having Trojan origins: did not the very word "Veoetia" stem from "Aeneas?" They began to see antiquity in humanist terms - "shep-

words - and to imagine the tailiest lagoon settlers as people of Arcadian virtue.

Finally, in the heyday of the less interested in their past than in their magnificent present, the terrific opportunities always waiting to be seized, the promise of everlasting splendour. They had made good use of antiquity, in creating a national myth, and they were to live upon its accretions until, 200 years ago this year, it all collapsed in ignominy. "Fai occupé ce matin". General Louis Baraguey d'Hilliers reported to Napoleon, "la ville de Venise, avec la Se demi-brigade de bataille": and that was that.

This is a pitifully inadequate and simplistic attempt to reflect what Venice and Antiquity is about. The book is a prodigious assembly of concerning what psychiatrists might call Venice's efforts to find itself and to project itself. Professor Brown may not be the most lucid of expositors, but she is a scholar of stuoning range and force, and

shake the wath out of it.

She finds evidence of the Venetian concern with antiquity in every aspect of the place. She scours the city for remains of the hooty, brought from Byzantium, from the Aegean, from the Italian mainland, by which the Serenissima tried to demonstrate its pedigree: oot just the familiar figures, marbles and Byzantine treasures of San Marco, but a mass of Roman tombstones, unnoticed pillars and reliefs. She describes the growth of antiquarianism in the 14th century, the gradual absorption of classical forms and images into the Venet-ian aesthetic. She pursues her purpose through literature, art, architecture, cartography, geocalogy, even astrology, and if sometimes one is inclined to forget just what facts, conjectures and illustrations has to pause and remind us (and perhaps herself), nevertheless the

> is a marvel to watch. She is at her best, I think, when she is discussing the particular Venetian truncations of time - an

virtuoso nature of the pursuit itself

herds, nymphs, and verdant she seems to grab the very idea of essential process, I suppose, in the groves, in Professor Brown's Venice, its very stones in fact, to evolution of civic eternity. I have always thought, for example, that the portal of the Arsenale was just a flamboyant expression of Venetian self-esteem, a hodge-podge of motifs tumbled rather raffishly together. Professor Brown cussects it more exactly. It includes a date in Roman numerals recalling the city's legendary foundation in 421, a deliberate copy of a Roman arch at Pula, two pairs of Byzantine columns, a standard 15thcentury Venetian lion of St Mark, a scallop shell, a couple of decorative urns and sundry statues of pagan import, all providing a ceremonial entrance to the centre of Venetian naval power. In short, it turns out to be a kind of architectural index of Venetian historical

Or take Carpaccio's glorious Entombment Of Christ, beautifully reproduced here in the whole and in detail. Professor Brown uses nothing is more purely Venetian, to this picture as an example of "contemporising antiquity" - muddling curiously still, confident and delibtime again. Classical ruins are scattered about the picture, along with the lightning-flash in Giorgione's skulls and bones to represent the The Tempest.

distant past and a culture long gooe: but on a ridge in the background, hop ther with a flock of sheep, are two purely contemporary figures, dressed anachronistically in the 16th-ceotury manner. Ooe is a shepherd boy playing a pipe, the other a bearded scholarly looking figure, a philosopher perhaps, or a Renaissance poet, in attitudes so motionless, yet so alive, that they might be interpreted as As it happens, timeless is what

Venice always was to me. Despite the tourists and the motor-boats, the film festival and Harry's Bar, the old city still seems to inhabit a moment that is eternal. Professor Brown, in her remarkable and loving book (for she clearly does love Venice, even if she does talk about influencing the articulation of its urban environment) demonstrates throughout how Venice's concept my mind, than the silent hush, so erate, that is illuminated for ever by

An Englishman aboard

Dea Birkett on Chinese whispers

here are rivers, mere stretches of water which flow freely and look lovely. And there are rivers that are highways, the M1s of our imaginations. The Yangtze, the world's fifth longest waterway, is a river of this mighty kind. A hattleground, a transport route, a creator of legends, a killer in flood, it flows through the heart of modern China and back through the history of

where East met, and fought, West. Simon Winchester was determined to take on this giant. He made the winding 4000-mile voyage from its gaping mouth at Shanghai to the headwaters in Tibet, most of it in a first-class cabin on a public ferry, unashamedly io search of another time as much as another place. What he sees, and what he has read, are inextricable. Auden and Isherwood's Shanghai is as powerfully portrayed as the neon and McDonald's nf the city today.

The author even carries photographs of the past, postcards of a land he wishes he was travelling through. He looks up from his 1931 snap of the Wind Moving Pagoda of Anging, "its skirts dipping deep into the river, a sailing junk passing gracefully below" to the scene today. office buildings ... iron

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ALTHORS WORLDWIDE WATED MRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT



But from out of this gloom shines Lily, a young and modern Chinese woman, and the wisest choice of travelling companion. Lily is his filter on China today. When he berates the Chinese for killing off the Yangtze dolphin, she in turn berates him. Save the dolphins or starve the

children, she gently reminds him. Through Lily, we got only question the author's interpretation hut the very things he seeks. Inquiring after the anchor (yes, the anchor) of the British frigate HMS Amethyst, which patrolled the river in 1949, the gateman at the Zheojiang museum was adamant: there were plenty of Song dynasty pots and pans, hut no anchor from a barbarian war vessel. Undeterred, Winchester strikes out to find relics which seem important to him. But when he refused to give up his search for a forgotten memorial to the signing of the Treaty of Nanking in 1842, Lily reached the end of her long tether. "Your bloody British Empire again!" she wailed.

With Lily beside him, he is instantly transformed from British bore to a funnel for every Englander's vaguely formed bopes and fears for China. Rather than losing our sympathy, he guarantees it; we, of course, would have made exactly the same mistakes, In this account with little hope, Lily is our one light. But even this

beacon is smothered: for her own

silencing of China's small heroes is.

perhaps, the greatest sadness.



Mythic meal: Greek pomegranates PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERT HARDING

Macedonian blockheads and other Grecian turns

Peter Levi is beguiled by an American in Paros

Dinner with Persephone: travels in Greece by Patricia Storace, Granta, £17.99

o dine with Persephone is an extravagant fantasy, but I am sure that she would serve pomegranates as lush as those oo the cover of this work - cut opeo to reveal the insides, as it were, of seaurchins. One of my earliest memories of Greece is of an old French diplomat tranquilly diving for those hlack-thorned marine hedgehogs with his wife. Whenever they found one, they ate it fresh. The taste is piquant - like that of Patricia Storace's book, which makes the Greece I remember seem as dull as a faded photograph.

The writing here is like that in a magazine, Granta now or the New Yorker as it was in Auden's time: perfectly acceptable to pass an hour Thetis. The result was Achilles, but or two, and memorable maybe once in 20 pages. The traveller is a New York poet of some wealth and eccentricity. She trots around many her bath. of the classical sites, though she is oot your old-fashiooed Philhellene. She crosses many glittering seas, and visits many shadowy islands. Paros is made of marble; Andros of stone and silk; and Storace has an excellent nose for the innocent

nooks of provincial life. But she is modern, and a New Yorker. Her life in Athens often retsina "wine's equivalent of seareminded me of the writer Takesis water". But she is enthusiastic (a transvestite who was murdered): it's an accurate depiction of the lower reaches of the population, though merely a foreigner's and not as deep as that of the obsessed nov- for no obvious reason - for 25

out in unexpected ways. Storace is knowing about whatever would interest an anthropologist (including mythology), but oot knowledgeable. Yet her sheer eagerness, her appetite for life, makes out of the year-in-Greece exercise a victorious book.

The only classical text to which she is devoted is that of the dream interpreter Artemidorus the Daldian - "the great Oceirocritical Master", as Thomas Browne called him. Dreams are back in fashioo with NY intellectuals, so perhaps he has been recently translated. Artemidorus used to interest me because of his occasional insights into poetry. He tells you it is a good omeo if nymphs reveal their breasts in a dream - as they do in Catullus, "standing up breast-high from the white foam" when Peleus first saw old Professor Frankel said that the image reminded him of some famous actress photographed in

Patricia Storace's year in Greece was an energetic one. She spoke the language, and endured many conversations with blockheads about Macedonia. There are moments when she registers a near miss: as when she thinks how like pomegraoate trees are to decorated Christmas trees, and wheo she calls enough to visit Evrytania, the most rugged and roadless of provinces when I was last there, with soldiers who had stood guard on hridges elist. The New York element comes years. Travelling on her own, ahe is omen, at least.

much subject to chance wooers, and records them all gleefully, but scorns to record the physical hard-ships of modern travel. She has conversations which are seldom enlightening but almost always cast light on character - as oo the night they decide that Christ died not to save man, but to save God.

The book has a climax, as travel books ought to have. Travelling by boat from Lesbos, she suddenly, at Istanhul, produces an ace of trumps from her sleeve. More than one theme is picked up there, as children in their finest clothes are off to he circumcised. She goes home by way of Athens, and on the last night a friend reproaches her for having lived a year in Greece with-out seeing a blue video. They watch a number together, including one in which a coffio has an erection and someone makes love with it: "this must be what the angels do in heaveo". What would the great oneirocritical master make of that? Grind your teeth, Henry Miller.

What I liked about this book was that it was full of pep. And I liked Storace's sense of the language, "not voluptuous or lilting but stony and earthy, a language full of mud and volcanic rock and glittering precious stones". I also liked the well-told tragedy of a Kiphissia lady, so moving that I thought Storace could be a novelist more easily than a poet - hut that, I'm sure, is because I do not know her poetry. She is probably the first true poet to have taken the Thasos ferry since Horace ran away from the Battle of Philippi; and that is a good

sand

so, in the distant past and a column gone: hut on a ridge in the ground, together with ah sheep, are two purch are e wate just of Venetrary figures, dressed analy cally in the loth-century One is a shepherd book CONT. CIR. pipe, the other a beardeds looking tigure, a philosope haps, or a Renaissance on tudes so motionless, jus dation in that they might be intent a Roman

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When Harold met Shelley

Lachlan Mackinnon contests a sober view of a romantic superstar

Byron: The Flawed Angel by Phyllis Grosskurth, Hodder, £25

yron was the first pop star. If the most significant cultural shift of the early 19th century was a shift in public attention from works of art to the lives of artists, he was central to that process. As the heir to a title, Byron was called on from birth to play a public role - but as the heir to no money, he couldn't play the one expected. He was cavalier about his literary leanings, as though afraid that writing were simply a higher form of being in trade, but it was through writing that he shaped for himself a new form of public identity.
Phyllis Grosskurth's account of Byron's

packground and childhood is dominated by the poet's mother. His father was a spendthrift roue who died in exile when yroo was four. The marriage had been bleakly miserable and left no financial protection. Handicapped by a club-foot, the child was deeply self-conscious: his mother's gauche approach to her English relations constantly betrayed her provin-cial Scottish upbringing, and although Byron seems never completely to have shaken off his accent he did all he could to erase his nationality. Her devotion to him was far greater than he consciously acknowledged, but may partly explain the irresponsibility shown by his having to leave Cambridge early with debts of £25,000 – a quite extraordinary sum in any age. An essential insecurity meant that he always had to live like a lord.

Byron's circles at Harrow and Cambridge were bisexual in orientation, and his early travels in Greece and Turkey have a strongly homosexual cast. Grosskurth believes that he wasn't very highly sexed, and that his promiscuity was a search for the home he oever felt he had, but this is not very persuasive. Behind her theory of the search for a home is the iron hand of Freudian determinism, and it seems weirdly inappropriate to a being as self-creating as her

However, Grosskurth writes sympathetically about Byroo's affair with his half-sister Augusta Leigh and about his marriage to Annabella Milbanke, If a reference to women "twittering" about the poet's appalling marital behaviour seems one-sided, she does bring out well how Annabella, under her mother's aegis, hardeoed into an avenging fury. Byron's major motives for marriage were to escape the looming scandal of incest and to secure his finances; he failed in both. He was already famous, the overnight success of Childe Harold in 1812 having assured this. The poem's morosely introspective hero was taken to be a mask for the poet, and Byron's own personality was now a matter of public fascination.

Byron's later years in Italian exile, his love-life and his involvement with the Shelley circles are all well documented here. One of Grosskurth's most successful re-creations of the poet's world is her account of his involvement with the cause of Greek independence from Turkey, and his journey to Missolonghi. "The roleplaying - even in the most responsible moments - broke down in the effort to believe and to behave as though every-thing were real, that he actually had a role book can show.

Why Vote Liberal Democrat? by

Vote Labour? by Tony Wright, Penguin, £3.99 each

William Wallace, Why Vote Con-servative? by David Willetts, Why

the past 30 years have seen a remarkable revival of political thinking and philosophy, but by academics and for academics.

Little of this political capital has fil-

tered down to the general reader.

Political publishing, other than for academia, is a high-risk business. Penguin's stock list has 167 titles

under Politics in four columns

to play although it was never to be revealed to him, she writes. Her description of Byron's death-agonies at the age of 36 is haunting.

Nonetheless, this is a book without a plot. If we want to know where Byron was or what he was doing on a particular day, it is a very helpful study, and Professor Grosskurth's work oo the Lovelace Papers enables her to give a much fuller and more credible picture of Annabella than we have had before. The problems begin when we want to understand Byron nself, as the motivation she offers simply doesn't make sense. She does, though, offer a number of tantalising hints which point to a very different picture.

Byron's "only sense of himself", she writes, was "formed by the impression he made on other people" (hence his fre-quent dieting, because he was prone to obesity). This is the key to his story, and it explains something Grosskurth is baf-

On 19 February 1814, Byroo saw Edmund Kean play Richard III, and was overcome. "Constantly he talked about Kean and about Richard. His resemblance to Hamlet's wavering uncertainties was far more marked, but it is intriguing that he could see a reflection of nself in Richard's evil twisted self", we are told. In November of the same year, at his first meeting with his prospective in-laws, Byron is found talking about

In fact, Byroo's fascination with Richard III makes perfect sense.

Although his tendency to a passive drifting with events was at times marked, Byron was not a Hamlet. Hamlet resists and resents the indignity of being drawn into his father's ghost's revenge-plot, an action which must circumscribe his mcotal freedom. He wants to remain remote from the world, where Byron was determinedly worldly. Richard, on the other hand, is a self-making and self-aware villain who chooses to become what he does. Byron was drawn to him because he too wanted to shape his own destiny at whatever cost. He seems to have suffered from a free-floating sense of guilt, perhaps caused by his failure to respond to an excess of maternal love. By sleeping with his half-sister, he could give that guilt a real cause, and Phyllis Grosskurth's book makes it clear how central that relation-

She also suggests that his love for Pope's poems was "enhanced by the fact that Pope was crippled". Maynard Mack's biography of the latter points out that more painted, printed or sculpted images were made of Pope than of any other nonroyal persoo in 18th-century England. Pope took great care that his deformity should be concealed, and it seems likely that his manipulation of his image was the precedent for Byroo's own.

Byron's comic masterpiece, Don Juan, is a continuation of the Pope tradition of loving sante i bytoo loves Don Juan as Pope loves Belinda in The Rape of the Lock) and the fullest expression of Byron's pride in his virtuosity. The search for rhyme is an existential challenge, and Byron was far closer to the existential man who would emerge later in the century in Dostoyevsky and in Nietzsche - than Phyllis Grosskurth's rather pedestrian



Detail, Byron after swimming the Hellesport, by Sir William Allan IROY MILES GALLERY BRIDGEMANN

Can't love ya 'cos ya phone's too big

E Jane Dickson doesn't want to go chic slumming with high-achieving New York girls

Sex and the City by Candace Bushneil Abacus, £ 7.99

ometimes the

Sededication is all you need. When you read

Candace Bushnall's tribute to "Snippy, who once bit his teddy bear" on the flyleaf of Sex and the City you have the measure of the woman. Forget the ballsy title, forget the spiked heek waving skywards on the dust jacket. Bushnall, a columnist on the New York Observer may come on like a regular broad, but at heart she's a nice girl from Connecticut looking for Mr Right, You hope to God that the Snippy of the dedication is a bonafide infant but something tells you that he's probably a 49-year-old marketing exec with a fractious inner child. "Why have such scores of lovely, gifted girls Married impossible men!" asked Robert Graves, and Sca and the Cin provides an answer. of sorts, for our times, in Bushnell's Manhattan,the kwely gifted girls are in revult. "New York," she reports, "has bred a particular type of single woman; smart, attractive, successful, and...never married." This should not be confused with the protofeminist rejection of traditional roles, Bushnell's girl-gang is out there hunting, Blahnik-shod Bacchantes wilding the bars and boardrooms of the city, but their expectations and cootemporary mating rituals, "as complicated and sophisticated as those in an Edith Wharton novel", have reodered them unmarriageable.

"What if," postulates Bushnall, "you're 40 and pretty and you're a television producer or have your own PR company, but you still live in a studio and sleep on a fold-out couch - the Ninetics equivalent of Mary Tyler Moore? Except, unlike Mary Tyler Moore, you've gone to bed with all those guys. What nappens to those women?

Well, you get to drink and do drugs a lot, go to launches/sex clubs/topless bars Ithe ne phus ulma of chic slumming) and talk to handsome boys about troilism. And if you're Candace Bushnall, you get to do h all on expenses.

Sex and the City is a loosely edited collection of her New Yark Observer culumn. The publishers say it "reads like a novel in serial format, but this is optimistic. Sketches of urban life coalesce into something like a narrative in the last third of the book, but although we are told, that the dramatis personar are "think fictionalised" versions of New York movers and shakers. characters largely remoin two dimensional exemplars of the "Take my friend, Veronica"

school of journalism. All the same, there is a freak-show compulsiveness about Set and The Cm. The men are poury little pashas. who make Sid the Sexist look like Cary Grant. "If you're not in the looks Olympics you can become a very mteresting person" allows one charmer, while another outs his rival with the withering put-down, "Your phone's too big." It beggars belief that Bushnell's new breed of Uberframen would send these runts out for a sandwich, let alone negotiate them into muriage. There again, while we are constantly told how smart and finns these gals are there is scant evidence of it in their dialogue and Bushnell's epigrammatic style too aften falls shy of the mark. Maybe you have to be

there. Maybe it is Bushnell's closely guarded sense of exclusiveness that makes you glad you're not. Fifteen years ago, when Cynthia Heimel, also a New York columnist, wrote Sex Tinx for Girls, about the problems of finding a man in the metropolis, it became required reading for women from Hoboken to Huddersfield, Heimel drew you into a charmed circle of women who were sexy and witty and laughed at themselves. You wanted to be in her gang. With Sex and the City the reverse is true, When Candace and Carrie and their wispy, WASPy friends have into view, you find yourself gelting as slidey eyed as they are, anxiously scanning the page for someone more interesting It is in the spirit of Heimel then, that the following advice is offered to Bushnell and her bunch of high-achieving neuroties: Girls, get our yourselves.

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The Tempest.

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records them all flesh scorns to record the plast ships of modern much fire versalions which are said ening but alarm always of character - is on the decide that Christ died at milli, but to save God. The book has delimate

(many by classic authors); "New Age" has 19 full columns. That's consumer sovereignty for you.

So this unholy trinity of manifestos is a timely venture into popular political publishing: with a cheap price, and a uniform length of 100 pages, each title is written with accessible vigour. The idea was excellent, the results are somewhat disappointing, as they say.

Tony Wright, perhaps the bright-

est and best of the new MPs, wrote well on the history of socialism in his academic days and as joint editor of Political Quarterly often editorialised for cooperation between Labour and the Liberal Democrats. None of that appears here. He simply throws strong partisan punches at the Tories, with more right books to straight lefts on my card. Between 1979 and 1993 the income of the poorest tenth declined by nearly 20%, while that of the richest tenth increased by 20%": a well-stated if familiar indictment of the Conservative record. Income differences and disabling poverty grew dramatically worse. Industry ran down to the benefit of City speculation; hence increased unemployment and government borrowing. Wright explains well the paradox of the anti-statist party that enhanced



So what's the big idea, John and Paddy and Tony? The three wise statesmen speak no evil

Bernard Crick is disappointed by three faithful echoes of their masters' voices

the arbitrary powers of government. His punches are thrown, however, with padded gloves. Wright discusses "the renewal and transformation of the Labour Party . . . under Tony Blair - that has brought hope to all those who want a sensible and radical party of reform to vote for and who understand that being radical and sensible do not have to be alternatives." Don't pause to puzzle whether those two vital "ands" are conjunctive or distinctive. A chapter headed "New Labour, Old Values" beckons, but

the values are left a wee bit vague. Only William Wallace, for the Lib-Dems, body-snatches those abandoned triplets "liberty, equality, fraternity" (which he calls "community"). Wright recklessly quotes Yeats to the effect that Labour is "changed, changed utterly", but stops short of saying that "a terrible beauty is born". Too much of his pamphlet is on such a level of generality that truism wrestles with tautology. When it comes to policy.

the vision becomes distinctly blaired. I struggled to find meaning in Wright's words on taxation policy -surely basic to the common good. Gordon Brown had not crossed the Rubicon when Wright wrote, but the latter must have seen the commitment to static tax levels coming and trimmed his sails. But Wright still flies a "stakeholding" colour, which seems meantime to have been lowered from the admiral's mast.

He is strongly for constitutional reform, but now has to sail around the rocks of PR. So he raises the possibility of "a system that makes all votes count": Blairy code for the alternative vote, which is not PR. His calls for a "civic vision" and "a responsible society" are heartfelt and admirable. But how is the gross inequality that negates both to be tackled? By "training", it seems, and by the one-off cure-all windfall tax.

Wright speaks well for all of us who would do almost anything to get this lot out. But what then? I find it hard to share David Willetts' belief in a hidden agenda. I agree with Wallace that all too little is prepared.

Lord Wallace has an easier ride because of the looser rein up there in the other House. The values he finds in a potted history of the Liberal Party (which ignores the still not irrelevant reasons for its collapse as a governing force) are liberty, equality of opportunity and community. To move society that way is a matter of morality and civic responsibility, but also of economic stimulus to allow more equality without panic. How? Here Wallace agrees with Wright: by a mixture of constitutional reform and exhortation.

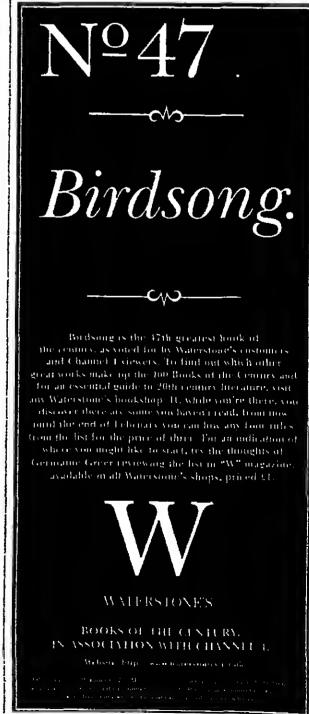
However, he is clear and bold on the need for graduated and mar-ginally increased income tax, as "this election, like the last, risks descending into a competitive auction between promises of lower taxation". Those are words Blair should have started saying two years ago. Wallace could almost persuade me tovote Lib-Dem, if I couldn't count. He is so clear and trenchant on how national assets have been squandered in the came of privatisation by a party that debases debate by

labelling its opponents unpatriotic. David Willetts MP seeks to restore his fortunes by stoppping his lads from fighting the last war. Blair's party "has indeed changed". but New Labour brings new dangers. Unlike Tony Wright, he draws attention to his previous books. 1 once reviewed his Modern Conservatism (1992) warmly as a brave and intelligeot failure to bridge the contradictions between Burkean traditionalism and the aggressive freemarket ideology. These currents still pull in different directions.

"Middle Eogland", however, knows that only the Tories can reconcile "two desires, each deeprooted and legitimate": for "the fruits of economic success" but also for "the rootedness of long established society". The volksgeist can do what social theory cannot - even if most of Two-Brains' colleagues have firmly come down on the side of the fruits. Traditioo demands we do oot change the constitution, especially as it is so flexible (that it allows Conservatives in power to do what-ever they want). All he adds to his old stuff are batteries of dodgy fig-ures, like an old Fabian in reverse.

Above all else, "the party of com-monsense" protects Middle England against "intellectual fads with continental models" (except those nf Hayek, Von Mises and the Bruges Group). All this is good, stout polemical nonsense, but no worse than Wright or Wallace in trying to present a picture of doctrinal unity within the party that is preposterous

to common sense and observation. Perhaps the sheer uselessness of these three books is signalled by the cover pictures of their smiling leaders. Big Brother watches their authors. "A writer cannot be a loyal member of a political party", said Orwell, who had just joined one. Only free men and women can debate politics honestly, and excessive loyalty destroys the lively, unexpected quirkiness of what Orwell had in mind when he wanted to make political writing into an art". Perhaps there are no intellectuals left who could explain why they vote for their party without embarrassing the leaders of the moment.





uhlishing hype has led to the mistaken belief that having your novel hit the shelves is, inevitably, a glitzy experience. Acquaintances angle for invites to the launch party, secure in the conviction that fish-eggs, fizz and gathered media are as automatic for novels by unknowns as they are for comedians, politicians and supermodels. Reviews are, ditto, considered an inevitable consequence. Imagination paints a dinner-jacketed, blackfrocked rush to the newsstands: life thereafter, a corpulent round of interviews. It's a Broadway Melody scenario that has little resemblance to reality.

Back in reality, publication day is a crossing-the-Equator sort of event which, in the absence of all evidence, must be taken on trust. When hardhack precedes paperback. gratified friends inform you that, though they've looked for the novel everywhere, they haven't seen a single copy in the bookshops. At such times, novelists frequently experience atavistic desires for a visible token of their state. An "I've Had A Novel Published" badge, perhaps, like the one that once said "I Am Five."

Only the chosen few get to pontificate to Melvyn Bragg. More likely is a spot on Radio Burgess Hill - "late nite music and chat to take us into Monday morning - as the DJ asks questions inspired by a press-release. Or maybe, several weeks after the event, a Carshalton Girl Is On The Cover" article appears in the local paper, playing up the parochial aspect at the expense of all other angles. There is a signing session, perhaps, at a small bookshop in a nearby town - two hours, with a coffee and Rich Tea at a table unwisely placed in the way of the Romance shelf. Passing customers occasionally remark that they have a wonderful idea for a novel themselves, which they'd put on paper if only they had the time. Your father drops in and buys a copy. So does your sister. You sign them. A review still eludes. Those

same friends who couldn't find the novel in the shops learn that the slating they so profoundly hoped you wouldn't get would still have been very much better than nothing at all. Eventually, a photocopied inch from the Oldham Evening Chronicle arrives from the press office, along with reassurances that the Chronicle has a sizeable circulation and is well thought of by those in the know. And the contents? Rapture and devastation are both equally inappropriate. In the manner of a horoscope, the review could apply to almost any novel written in the later 20th century. Except for onc, terrible adjective. Which rankles.

An aunt phones to say that your book is going down a homb at the library on the Isle

Catherine Feeny

Catherine Feeny's novel Musical Chairs is published in paperback by Sceptre next week

Aunt we sexy

Philippa Gregory enjoys another combination of raunch and relatives

Part of the Furniture by Mary Wesley, Bantam, £15.99

ary Wesley's new novel returns us to her vision of wartime England which made A Camomile Lawn and A Sensible Life such powerful and individual books. Their undeniable appeal was partly caused by an idiosyncratic view of wartime London opportunist, light-hearted, randy. For those readers brought up on the belief that the spirit of Dunkirk was one of heroic sublimation and self-denial, the view of wartime Britain as a place where a girl up from the country could be assured of a good time was refreshing.

The author was berself a young woman in wartime London, and part of the pleasure of her books is their sense of nostalgia, their authenticity, and the huge frisson which comes from reading someone old enough to be a great-grandmother writing raunch. It's like hearing your great-aunt swear: in theory you know she can do it, but when she does it's still a thrill.

Part of the Furniture shares these hallmark strengths of a Wesley novel but the story strains the reader's credibility to the utmost. Juno Marlowe who has just been doubly raped by her adored cousins sees them off on a secret wartime mission and runs harefoot through the freezing streets during a bombing raid. Grabbed by a complete stranger, she goes to his house and gets into bed with him, where they both fall asleep. Imagine her consternation when she wakes in the morning to find him dead! What can she do but slide down the banisters and find her way to the dead stranger's father on his understaffed idyllic country farm, where

she is welcomed with open arms. The rest is both predictable and so heavily signposted that even the densest reader might find their way through to the typically Wesleyan happy ending. In Wesley's erotic



Still having fun after a long and sensible life: Mary Wesley

characters are punished by death or celibacy, good people are rewarded with lashings of sexual pleasure. The strength of this book and the

others in the trilogy is the impression you gain that they were conceived as a whole. Never is a character introduced and then forgotten; even the walk-on parts will walk on elsewhere. Because of this, the novels become powerfully persuasive. A girl who has an Aunt in one of the novels will still have an Aunt in another. More intricately, another novel may

her niece. It's a technical point, perhaps more interesting to other writers than to readers, but it shows the care Wesley invests in these novels.

For the casual reader the benefits are very great. The novels create a persuasive world of interconnected relationships, very like reality. This is perhaps why one forgives Wesley the absurdity of events. The bombs which fall but don't explode, the accidents, the coincidences, the missing letters, the surprises of love. moral economy, unsympathetic feature the Aunt, who will refer to superbly that one can forgive the and discovering new connections.

silliness of the foreground stories and the stereotypical characters. The beloved Devon landscape, the pet and eccentric members of county society carry the reader happily to

the satisfying end.

This is not ber best novel: Juno is too superficial, ber story is too lucky, to engage the reader, unlike Poppy Carew or Hebe in Wesley's previous novels; but the many millions of fans of The Camomile Lawn and A Sensible Life are guaranteed She does her backgrounds so the pleasure of meeting old friends

Wind-swept orphans in Illinois

Nick Kimberley finds a genuine sense of pain in the chronicler of Main Street, USA

All the Days and Nights and So Long, See You Tomorrow by William Maxwell, Harvill, £10.99 and £8.99 respectively

hat noise do clocks make? "Tick/tock tick/tock". And horses? "Clop, clop, clopty clop". And bow would you describe the Outer Hebrides? They're 'wind-swept islands". It's obvious. Rather too obvious, you might think, yet in William Maxwell's ficnon, these are the noises clocks and horses make, and poor orphan girls in insurance; that his elder brother do indeed come from the "windswept" Outer Hebrides. For Maxwell, the obvious is not necessarily to be scorned.

To an extent, that's because his subject matter is, precisely, the story "The Front and the Back that make a life; and then those starting-point: "Early on in the small lives that make a community. writing...the characters took over, Maxwell's community is very specific: Lincoln, the town in Illinois another that mostly what I did was clous hand it must be."

where he was born in 1908. It is record their conversation." where Maxwell's imagination is east, which "is always being plowed under". His fiction is a means of preserving some of the shards turned over by that plough.

The distance between narrator and author, even in autobiography, is always difficult to judge, and Maxwell intriguingly makes it more difficult. Over and over again, he tells us that his mother died when he was a child; that his father was got his leg trapped in the wheel of a buggy, and had to have it amputated. We presume these details represent autobiographical fact, hut as Maxwell writes in the 1991 obvious - those small incidents Parts of the House", this is only a

Yorker. He he must bave come into contact with acres of well-scrubbed prose, and no doubt he did some scrubbing himself. Unsurprisingly, his own fiction would sit well in the New Yorker, where the novella So Long See You Tomorrow first appeared. Throughout the two books, the tone is moderate and well-behaved, like the characters.

In Maxwell's collected stories, All the Days and Nights, that eventually becomes oppressive as we find ourselves in a comfortably detached small town where a bouse might have a two-car, or even a five-car garage; and where coloured maids are commonplace. This is a placid, comfortable world in which all is for the hest, even when it goes wrong: "I think if it is true that we are all in the hands of God, what a capa-

There is a kind of complacency For 40 years, Maxwell was an here that So Long, See You Tomormost at bome, preferably in the editor, mostly of fiction, at the New row manages to undercut by that most reliable device, a murder – passionless crime passionel in which a poor farmer exacts revenge for his wife's adultery by killing ber lover. The murderer's son, a friend of the narrator, is whisked away, and a few years later our storyteller meets him at school in Chicago; but the two pass each other by witbout a word. That failure of compassion haunts him into adulthood. He tries to make sense of it by imagining the events leading up to the murder.

.There are times when Maxwell's characters seem to be living the placid, mildly neurotic lives lampooned in New Yorker cartoons, but in this novella there is a real sense of pain, of lives that go wrong and how we struggle to cope. For that I'm prepared to live with clocks that tick-tock and horses that clop-clop.

Independent choice: audio books

by Christina Hardyment

words of a dead man modified in the guts of the living", as Auden puts it in "In Memory of WB Years". Badly done, they are infuriatingly intrusive on the inti-mate tête à tête between book and reader. But converts to audiobooks know how much added value they can provide: readers who enrich thrillers with suspenseful menace or illuminate dif-ficult texts with lucid emphases, a painless dripfeed through daunt-ingly long classics, the opportunity to hear a great actor or, most fascinating of all, the voice of the author himself. On journeys they are especially attractive, shortening the longueurs of motorways, soothing one to sleep in strange

There is no more companionable book on earth for the solitary traveller tban John Steinbeck's Travels With Charley (Penguin, unahridged, c.8 hrs, £12.99), and since it is the tale of a journey at the wheel it is ideal driving fodder. When "the virus of restlessness" assailed him, Steinbeck took off from Long Island to tour America with bis giant poodle Charley in a van converted to his own specifications. He discovered an America more eccentric, benign and human than anything that hit the beadlines, and the wry wis-dom with which he views human nature remains ineradicably in the mind_Gary Sinise's voice occasionally has a soporific quality, but be is an excellent

Steinbeck soundalike.

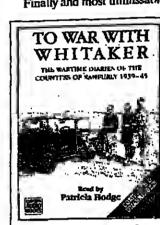
The most classic of all journeys is of course that of the "man of many wiles" Ulysses to Troy and back by way of Circe. Cyclops and innumerable trials. For non-classicists it has always been a daunting prospect, but Homer's Odyssey (Hodder, c.9brs, £25), gives us the complete text in unusually accessi-ble form. This version is read with unflagging excitement and sensitivity by Derek Jacobi in a translation by Allen Mandelbaum which avoids arebaisms but retains all the thrilling rhythms of the original.

Dante's journey into the underworld is a different kind of the labyrinth of wartime classic journey, an allegory of bureacuracy in order to achieve Williams reads The Inferno (Naxos, 4 hrs, £8.99) with a busky intensity that bad me spellbound. Benedict Flynn's translation does full justice to the original and, as is usual with Naxos's always a born diarist and a natural yarn rounded and thoughtful productions, contemporary music adds drama to the reading.

The calm, clear-eyed beroine of Neville Shute's A Town Like Alice (Chivers, 10 hrs, £15.95) also makes a journey to hell and back in wartorn Burma. Shute, a master storyteller, is rightly enjoying a return to popularity, but avoid the two cassette dramatised abridgement of the book just been released by the BBC. It really is worth buying this excellent complete version. Then wait for a long haul so that

udiobooks are, much more you can enjoy every word of Robin Bailey's gentle, intense reading of this famous novel, Poetry is a delight to have by

one while travelling, but it can be much more easily murdered on tape than prose. Classic Poems (HarperCollins, 2.5hrs. £8.99) is a curate's egg, but brilliance easily ourweighs the occasional dud and its astonishing east of readers and many historic recordings make it an absolute must have. What greater added value could there he than T S Eliot, Auden, Hughes and Dylan Thomas reading their own verse. Boris reading their own verse. Boris Karloff intoning Kipling's "If" and Sybil Thorndike eestatically emoting "The Lady of Shalott"? Ralph Richardson makes Blake's Tyger lazily terrible, James Mason puts incalculable menace into Browning's "My Last Duchess" and Diana Quick show us just wby "Aurora Leigh" was a sensation in its day. It is an especial treat to bave Burns and Yeats read to bave Burns and Yeats read with the Celtic lilt they deserve. Finally and most unmissable,



Pick of the week To War with Whitaker by Hermione, Countess of Ranfurly

Patricia Hodge reads To War With Whitaker (Chivers, c.13 hrs, £16.99) with all the pluck and panache that its extraordinary author, Hermione. Countess of Ranfurly showed in her six years of wanderings through wartime Africa and Europe with a revolver tucked into her girdle, wheedling her way through possible to her husband, and when be was taken prisoner, not to return to England until he did. Besides being a trusty blade-straight mate, Ranfurly is spinner, whose humour and ebuilience delight the ear, but who can also be treasonably frank about the major personalities in the confused theatre of war that we glimpse behind Bogart's Casablanca. Arguably the star of the show, is the sbort and portly Whitaker, the Ranfurlys' English cook-butler who also refuses to be left behind and carries on intrepidly, whether crossing the desert perched on the luggage of the Baby Austin or dancing boompsadaisy with his ladysbip.

Paperbacks

By Christopher Hirst

The Brimstone Wedding by Barbara Vine (Penguin, £5.99) The reader is swept along like a twig in a torrent by this account of two doomed love affairs separated by decades. Jenny, a superstitious care-assistant in an old people's home, is approximing the 13th year of a loveless marriage when she strikes up a rapport with Stella, a resident suffering from cancer. Bit by bit. Stella recalls the terrible events which freed her liver but destroyed their relationship. In her razor-sharp depictions of both character and milicu. Barbara Vine (alias Ruth Rendell) is utterly convincing.

Homeland by Barbara Kingsolver (Faber, £5.90) These shards of American home-life have attracted the scaring epithet "Chekovian" from the New York Times but that is overstating the case. Many of Kingsolver's stones are akin to diary entries of a reculiarly traumatic nature - a car-crash, a near-drowning, an arrest on a picket-line - but they are strangely lacking in focus, despite her fine, laconic dialogue and eye for shabby detail. She writes with great tenderness about

society's outsiders, but, laudable

though it is, this kind of material does not make for addictive page-

Trust by Francis Fukuyama (Penguin, £12.50) Despite its daunting bulk and title, this is a stimulating read. Fukuyama's enlightened thesis is that "a healthy and dynamic civil society' - in other words "trust" between individuals and institutions - is vital for stable prosperity. Overly centralised states have trouble achieving this; so do those where any institution larger than the family is distrusted. The author cites the example of Wang Computers whose fortunes plummeted as a result of "histant nepotism". This wide-ranging, lucid work is a welcome rebuff to extremists of both right and left.

The Austrians by Gordon Brook-Shepherd (HarperCollins, £8.99) Britain's greatest expert on Mitteleuropa has condensed a lifetime's research into this history. Austria's imperial past is delineated at a cracking rate from Charlemagne to Metternich in 60 pages. The pace slows for the momentous events of our own century in which this pocket-sized state played such an explosively



Can you write a winning short story for 6-9 year-old

Don't miss The Tabloid next Thursday for details of the 1997 Story of the Year competition. First prize is £2,000, with £500 for the two runners up - and to celebrate the competition's fifth birthday. we will be awarding a special trophy to all three. The winning

story will be published in the Independent Magazine, and the top 10 stories will appear in a specially commissioned anthology from Scholastic Children's Books. So sharpen those pencils - and find out on Thursday about another celebrity's bedtime stories.

catalytic role. Fortunately for all concerned, the last half-century has been remarkable for its lack of drama, though the author notes how the Waldheim scandal shattered Austria's complacent view of itself.

Howard Hughes: the untold story by Peter H Brown and Pat H Broeske (Warner, £7.99) Rich beyond belief. Hughes was once a formidable operator. But by 1951, his aides were issued with a "nine-

point programme for opening a tin of peaches." His harem of starlets had similar rules: no leg-shaving and no pork ("Howard bated to be in bed with women who had gas"). His celebrity lovers ranged from Ava Gardner to Kate Hepburn. Doubtless the "millions of dollarsworth of jewels he threw at their feet" helped them overlook any character defects. Despite the authors' assiduous research, the man remains a mystery - perhaps there is little to know.

Michael Arditti

hears confessions of a cassock-ripper

The Benefits of Passion by Catherine Fox, Hamish Hamilton, £16

ar from encouraging feelings of dread, invitations to vicarage tea-parties in Gateshead must be highly prized - at least in the parish where Catherine Fox's husband is vicar. If she serves up the same mixture of wit, charm, perception and raunch in her sittingroom as she does in her prose, they must be the best parties in town.

Annie, the engaging heroine of her second novel, is a 30-something ordinand, scarred by ber dour nonconformist background, training at an evangelical theological college in a thinly veiled Durbam. Coverdale Hall could not be more different from the Anglo-Catholic bothouse of A N Wilson's Unguarded Hours, and Fox's first achievement is to sustain interest in a group of characters with such fundamentalist views.

The best (former midwife Muriel and 50-something Ted) are worthy but dull; the worst (ex-army officer Edward) is full of passionate intensity. Fox is excellent at capturing the

ent from square-bashing, who believes that imagination is a product of the Pail, and who uses the typical evangelical trick of substituting alliteration for logic, as when dividing sermons into sections such as

A realistic rector's wife

Prayer, Praise and Perseverance". Annie is an alien in this world. While ber study group discusses "God and Calling", she fantasises about having sex with an entire rugby team. Having been celibate for 11 years, her libido is panting at the leash. Indeed, she pictures it as Libby, a dog on heat (and Fox obtains much comic mileage when she finally takes it for a walk). She attempts to ease her frustrations by secretly writing cassock-ripng romantic fiction.

Her heroine, Isabella, has "all the directness Annie lacked". She is cat to Annie's mouse, and, in turn, she plays cat and mouse with a handsome ordinand she meets in Cambridge. Their crazy courtship has all the energy and excitement of a classic Hollywood comedy.

Fox handles the different fictional modes with great aplomb, showing the many uses to which Annic puts her writing. At times, she transmutes experience without realising. as when she meets a gynaecologist whom she has inadvertently used as the model for Barney. At others, she steals from her friends to give to her characters. At her most desperate, stolid bigotry of Edward, a man for writing becomes a means of revenge, whom bible-bashing is little differage.

ning-looking hostess in her next book "and give her peptic ulcers". The fictional parallels become

more complex once Annie meets Will, a doctor-friend of Edward's, and behaves with a passion that was previously the preserve of Isabella. An ordinand to her finger-tips, she is racked by guilt. She even prays that the Second Coming will occur to prevent their sleeping together.

The Benefits of Passion is a delightful novel; funny, life-enhancing and humane. Its faults lie in a certain lack of weight: for all Annie's doubts, there is no serious theological debate; nor any real sense of the darkness that must be the testing-ground of faith. Some of the men come straight from stock. Will and Barney, in particular, are little more than dashing bunks.

Knowing nothing of Catherine Fox but her press release, it is impossible not to identify her, in part, with her fiction. One scene, where Isabella, now married to a curate, serves an obscenely shaped boeuf wellington to a bishop and his wife, only makes sense if Fox is showing the same propensity for fictional revenge as her central character. But who cares, when it is the funniest meal graced by an episcopal personage since Stepben Fry's The Hippopotamus? Above all, she displays a genuine ability to make religion palatable for a secular age. Forget *The Rector's Wife*; this is the real thing.

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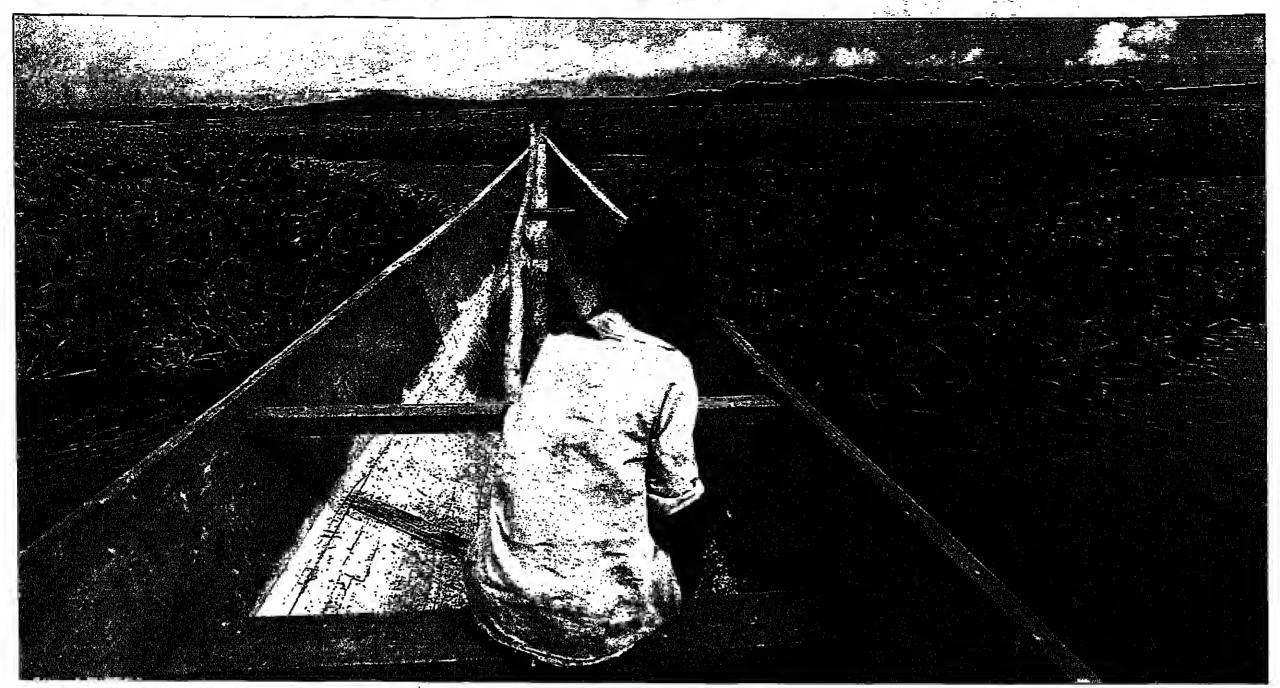
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travel & outdoors

Switzerland goes cuckoo at camival time 10 Take to the piste among Roman ruins 12 Weekend warriors 16



In the wake of Idi Amin

The legacy of the reign of terror keeps Uganda off the tourist map. But for those who make the journey, the islands that pepper Lake Victoria provide a dizzying array of all that Africa has to offer ... including its dangers, as Anna Borzello found



hours to get there. Four times, the 20 pas- Life Mwattu, a popular Ugandan soap. sengers had to clamber out of the back of the pick-up to lighten the load, leaving only (unsweet bananas, a staple of south Uganda) and a frail old woman clutching

on to the edge of a coffin for support. Just before reaching the ferry stage, the vehicle stopped next to a rundown house where, on the grass beside it, a group of women were crying. Then the coffin was lifted over the passengers' heads and off the pick-up, whereupon the women began

ritually waiting and clasping their hair. The man they are crying for fell out of this pick-up vesterday," explained the schoolhov crushed against my knees.

Ssese, an archipelago of 84 islands in the Ugandan waters of Lake Victoria, has only 16,000 inhahitants, and is one of the less-visited circuits for independent travellers although Lonely Planet included it in the third edition of its guide to East Africa in 1994.

Uganda, which still suffers from its association with the long-gone dictator Idi Amin, attracts lew travellers, Ssese, hy virtue of its inaccessibility, gets even fewer. In Kalangala police station - a settlement of tin huis, loose chickens and courteous officers - the visitors' book in which all tourists must register, flicks back

to 1992 in a few pages. Kalangala, on Bugala island, is a tiny settlement, its buildings spread spaciously

Ithough Kalangala, the adminis- lake and offshore islands. There is not trative centre of the Ssese islands, much action, except for the TV set. At is less than 60 miles from Kam-night, benches are set up outside a shop and pala, it took us eight dangerous a vocal audience gathers to watch That's

> Most visitors stay about five days, rowing on the lake, walking through vervet-filled forests, or cycling along the quiet lanes. Paths pass through poor mud-and-thatch villages, and the islanders greet visttors politely. Tourists are still rare enough to have had little impact on the lifestyle of the islanders and only a tiny handful have tried to capitalise on tourists as a source of income.

> One of these is Mr PT Andronico - the heart of Ssese's tiny tourist industry, and now, since his oddities were mentioned by Lonely Planet, an attraction in himself This eccentric 70-year-old islander, with his luminous green Wellington boots and gasping, eager speech, has a manic urge to label everything in his tourist lodge as if he is trying to teach its inhabitants to read.

Outside the lodge, clouded by a noisy tree drooping with the weight of hundreds of yellow weaver birds, is a sign for a car park - a misnomer given that there are few cars on the island, none of which helong to Mr Andronico.

Instead, the tiny shack houses rickety bicycles which are hired out with a map indicating the major landmarks in Mr Andronico's life: the school where he taught: the improbable parish church perfectly Victorian except for its corrugated-iron roof - where he funded the latrines; the village where he was born.

In front of Mr Andronico's lodge is a along the dirt-red road which overlooks the dusthin, helpfully labelled "bin". Inside

the labels proliferate and even the plant Muganda - the central Ugandan tribe were a Danish couple en route in Tanzapot is labelled "plant". My bedroom, with its animal skin, religious artefacts and house rules ("No wrong sex"), felt as if a mad old lady had recently died in it.

Mr Andronico's full creativity, however, is let loose on the dining room walls, where his personal history and political prejudices flourish freely. Ex-presidents ldi Amin and Milton Obote are there, the phrase "killer murderer" inked beneath them. The current president of nine

years, Yoweri Museveni, fares better. His annotation: "Peace Bringer". There is no doubt, judging by the curling picture of the Kabaka, the Buganda

which has historically dominated the econia to demonstrate Tanzanian dances to nomic and intellectual life of the country.

Underneath these pictures, the evening people. In our case this included a local journalist who came every evening to share "hot tips". He seemed eager for company, not surprising given that there are few young people in Ssese. Most children go to the mainland for school, and by the time they are educated there is lit-

tle point in coming back. Ssese is usually fairly empty. The police king reinstated by Museveni two years came to tell us when another traveller ago, that Mr Andronico is a fervent arrived, and the only other tourists we met

"This made no impact at

afterwards.

This may be what is meant

by the intermediate term

periods: shoulder season.

between peak and low travel

Few Ugandans travel to Ssese. This is meal (plates of groundnut sauce, fish stew not simply because there is little domesand sweet bananas) is eaten with Mr tic tourism in Uganda, a country with a drew alongside and threw more fish Andronico, his son and interested towns- per capita income of £150 per month and only a tiny middle class who prefer to "travel out" for their holidays, but because Ugandans, most of whom can't swim, are terrified of the lake.

Their terror is justified. On the return journey, four hours by fishing boat rather than the more roundabout road-and-ferry route, many of the regular commuters, aware that an overloaded boat had sunk that weekend, packed orange life jackets in their briefcases. Passengers were carried one by

dense with hyacinths, to a sun-bleached fishing boat beaped with dead and dying fish.

The journey, rocking under a clear and hurning sky, was broken only when a hoat dried fish which forms the livelihood for many of the islanders and whose deadbippo-like smell pervades Bugala island. were also heaved on hoard.

I steadied my eyes on the horizon, while the young policeman next to me - who was returning to Kampala after a ninemonth stint in what he regarded as the lifeless pit of Ssese (no discos and only five murders since the New Year) - was discreetly sick over the side.



Victoria principles Getting there: Competition is increassuch as Somak Travel (0181-903 8526)

ing on flights between Britain and Uganda. Alliance Air (book direct on 0171-312 5040) flies nonstop on Mondays and Fridays hetween Heathrow and Entebbe; Alliance is an offshoot of South African Airways (and uses an old SAA 747). The lowest fare is £440 return including tax, but this must be booked by 3pm today; after that, the fare rises by £20. British Airways (0345 222111) flies twice a week from Gatwick via Nairobi. Its lowest official fare is around

£700, but discounted tickets costing

£400 are available through agents

for travel by the end of March. British visitors no longer need a tourist visa for Uganda. Accommodation: The government-

run Uganda Hotel Corporation operates a network of comfortable lodges. Prices are around £25 single/£40 double per night, including ten and toast.

Further Information: Philip Briggs's Guide to Uganda (Bradt Publications. £11.95); East Africa: a Travel Survival Ku (Lonely Planet, £11.95).

The Ugandan High Commission is at 58 Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DX (0171-839 5783).



See also Teletext page 248 Quote code 58

our request for ridiculous holiday injury tales," writes Peter Roberts of North Yorkshire, "prompts me to recount the following episode during a journey to Poland in January 1993. "At the time, Lufthansa

offered an attractive deal on flights into Germany, so I flew to Berlin and took the overnight train to Warsaw. Distracted by the romantic prospect of sleeping on a train while I travelled through darkened foreign countryside (not to mention several beers consumed in a bar opposite the station), 1 bedded down on the top couchette of an otherwise empty three-docker compartment.
"At around midnight, I was

wrenched from sleep by the clatter of the door being cast aside and a barked 'Passport!' Hazy and confused, not to say scared



by the uniform, peaked cap

and holstered gun standing in the doorway, I rolled over and swung down. "In my haste to please the

man with the gun. I forgot that the top level in a threedecker is a long way from the floor. The effect of dropping my full weight on to my forcarms was the dislocation of my right shoulder. Dressed decadently in only a pair of boxer shorts, I lay on

the floor writhing in pain.

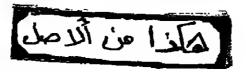
all on the spook. Evidently week of New York on the state communist culture Concorde for £10 return was was unchanged. 'Passport!' not quite as generous as it he kept repeating. Perhaps it was the only word his rules sounded. If you were lucky enough to be among the of engagement allowed him. one-in-150,000 of telephone "I struggled to my feet and applicants for a cheap seat reached up for my bag. As I on the supersonic jet, you did so, I felt the shoulder will know by now that the tax

British Airways' offer this

crunch back into place. The payable on the offer was officer inspected every page more than double the fare. of my passport while casting William Read of Stafford glances at my grimaced expands on "the iniquity of 'tax exclusive' prices in flight advertisements". Mr Read features, perhaps reading guilt there instead of pain. Finally, without a word, he says he took the practice up handed my passport back with the Advertising and moved on. Not a trace of Standards Authority and human warmth illuminated "managed to obtain a the shadow under the peak successful complaint against throughout this exchange. 1 a leading airline's use of travelled on, with the deceptive advertising". shoulder back in working The only long-term order but painful for weeks

solution, says Mr Read, is that all advertised prices for flights should be inclusive of all taxes - "on the same basis as other products and services sold in this country".





something to declare



expedition is just a credit card away? True, at least according to the new Royal Geographic Society Tours - an association between the society and five tour operators, announced this week. But it begs the question: what is an expedition? When you're on a luxury cruise and the only special equipment you need is a pair of sunglasses? Call me old fashioned, but if I went on an expedition I'd expect to come back with more intrepid yarns than how I learnt to fox-trot in the Pacific or how I got my hair damp being ferried ashore in a Zodiac in Antarctica.

The society has been internationally renowned for supporting adventurers since the early 19th century. But the new RGS Tours involving five operators which promote the value and enjoyment of geography look as if they are mainly suited to those who fancy being explorers without having to do any exercise, be the slightest bit uncomfortable or suffer an injury that can't be cured with the stretch of an Elastoplast.

The RGS operators include Noble Caledonia and Orient Lines (both luxury "expedition" cruise ship operators), Abercrombie & Kent and Wildlife World-wide (both offering luxury wildlife tours) and Adrift (which specialises in whitewater rafting trips). In terms of

adventure, Adrift clients are the only ones who battle with the elements (the company has recently pioneered the first ever descent of the Victoria Nile in Uganda), although you don't actually have to be able to swim.

But the RGS also insists

the operators are chosen for their understanding of sustainable tourism issues. Cruise-ship waste controls prevent the polar regions heing adulterated by caviar tins. All operators talk briefly about respecting the fragile environments they visit. And A&K donates part of your fee to wildlife charity Friends of Conservation. But only Adrift gives a really thorough account of how they have planned their holidays with the local communities and environments in mind.

Environmental tourism, as anyone who has attended an RGS "sustainable tourism" conference will tell you, is not just about appreciating wildlife and recycling. Invariably, the main problem local communities face is the fact that they get only the financial crumbs from tourism and have little say over its development, yet bear the environmental and social costs. Sue Wheat

RGS Tours, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR (0171-591 3157)

Bargain of the week

The present series of Britannia charters to Australia and New Zealand operated by Austravel (0171-734 7755) represents good value, but the flights tend to be longer and more cramped than scheduled services, and the programme finishes in March. From today, Austravel is selling "charter out/scheduled home" flights to Australian and New

Zealand destinations. You travel there on Britannia, and hack on Cathay Pacific, Malaysia Airlines or Singapore Airlines - with the option to stop at their "home ports" of Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur or Singapore, The fare to Sydney is £628 return, and to Auckland £612. You



For three days every year, the Swiss step out of character, into costume and go totally out to lunch for the 'Fasnacht' carnival in Basie

Masked Basle

against the granite wall of the 90-yearold Mittlere Brücke and detach myself from the crowds. Hoards of people were still teeming the confetti-covered Greifeng strasse in Basle. Lights from the hland, flat Johanniterbrücke highlighted the ripples of the wide, inky-black Rhine. Spotlights illuminated the magnificent twin Gothic towers of the a spectacular three-day extrav-

n Tuesday evening it After the noise and hustle, was a relief to lean there was a strangely calm interthere was a strangely calm interval. It was short lived.

A 50-piece band, dressed as elephants and kitted out with drums, trumpets, trombones, tubas and much more, marched past playing "Happy Days are Here Again". I took the plunge once more and joined the crowd following respectfully behind.

This was Basle's Fasnacht cathedral, nestled high on the aganza that starts on the first southerly bank of the river. Monday of Lent. It takes

months of hard work by more than 12,000 people for the propainted lanterns while a sea of ceedings to get underway. With the unerring accuracy of a Swiss clock, it kicks off at 4am with stroke") in Marktplatz. Hundreds of faces poke out from their padded jackets as the lights of the city are extin-guished and the air becomes filled with the resonant sound of piccolos and drums. Then, in what seems like a hizarre hallucinatory experience, the pre-

grotesque costumed and masked figures march along. all covered from head to foot the Morgestraich (or "morning so it is impossible to tell their

More than 100 groups, or Cliquen - each containing between 25 and 200 members - make up the opening parade. By dawn this has amassed to a lot, An awful lot. And the music throughout the festival is in equal ahundance because, in dawn gloom is illuminated by true Swiss style, it never seems

to stop. From morning to night you come across unexpected costumed figures playing music on nearly every street corner.

With the unerring accuracy of a Swiss

watch, 'Fasnacht' festivities start at 4am on

the first Monday of Lent. By Mark Dudley

After the opening parade, there is a morning break. Then the same Cliquen perform in the Strassenfasnacht, and a host of smaller processions wind their way along the official route in two directions through the old and new town - by crossing the Rhine on the Mittlere Brücke and Wettsteinhrücke. Confetti. oranges, sweets and mimosa are thrown

abundantly to the crowds. Every float represents a theme from the year. These ual. Mad cows and hig-eared more than 50 of the Cliquens' us were two of the more were scores more. And it the Cliquen's theme for the seemed that wherever I went there were groups of costumed pipers and drummers and, of course, loud, foot-stompin'

Guggemuusig hands.
The like of which I was now following into Grossbasle and the old part of town - an area home to Basle's healthy collection of historical and cultural monuments. These include the imposing 14th-century Spalentor (the former gate to the city), the Kunstmuseum with its wide selection of German paintings, the red-brick 16th-century town hall in Marktplatz, and the Historisches Museum (set in a 14th-century Franciscan church and outside of which the Guggenuusig bands would give concerts this very evening).

BASLE BASICS The Basic Fasnacht runs from 4am on 17 Fehruary to 19 February. Getting there: Swissair 10171-434 7300) and British Airways (0345 222111) fly between Heathrow and Basle: Swissair has the lowest fare, £161.50 return Saturday night). Eurostar

A layer of confetti covered the ground like a hefty fall of snow. Then, when the band started to play "When I'm 64" with a jaunty beat initiated by the trumpets, fired by the drums and beefed up by the tubas. I branched left up the narrow. cobbled Rheinsprung strasse, an ancient street lined with charming houses. However, I was slowed by a small group of people who followed a lone drummer dressed in the powdered wig and flared skirt of the mid-18th century. Gradually he

led us into Munsterplatz. Dominated by the red sandstone Gothic cathedral (its conideas originally had to he for-merly approved by the ruling centuries and records date back Komittee, the organisers who to 916 when it was initially a disallow anything lewd or sex- church), the square displayed lanterns. Hand-painted by pro English themes, though there fessional artists, they depicted year. I browsed in the peaceful surrounds, dallying between having a brativurst and Warteck beer from one of the stalls or a drink in the warmth of the coffee shop opposite. And then I heard the oom-pah beat of "I'm in the Money", which reminded me I was skint, so 1 wandered off to watch the

Guggemuusig concert in Barfüsserplatz instead. British visitors this Lent may not realise their good fortune, hut the pound is stronger against the Swiss francihan it has been for four years. But if you refuse to accept that 5 francs (£2.15) for a coffee is a hargain, just make the most of these free and fantastical festivities.

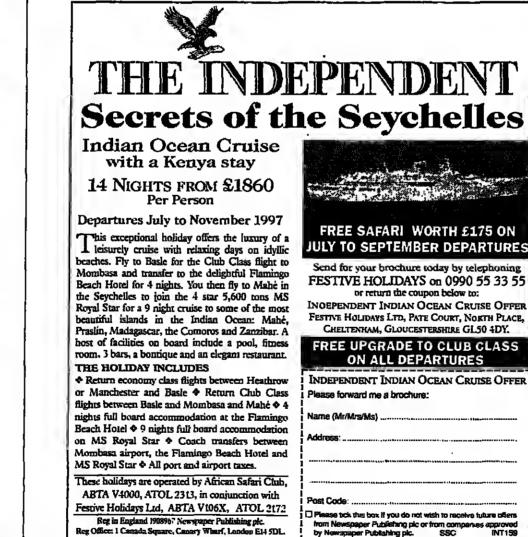
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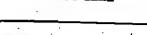
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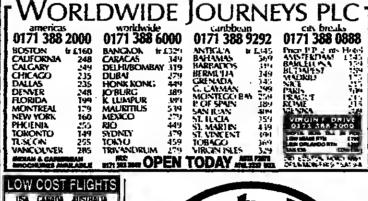
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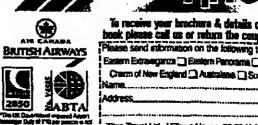
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War and piste

Now the bullets have stopped flying, Lebanon's sun, surf, snow and Phoenician ruins are becoming a tourist draw. Stephen Wood reports

obody knows when the snow will fall. And nobody can say exactly when Ramadan will end. The first big snowfalls on Mount Lebanon were expected in December, but they didn't come until the beginning of last week. Ramadan is more reliable than that: the month-long Muslim fast ends when the first sighting of the new moon has been officially confirmed in Mecca. Everyone who needed to know was aware that Fitr, the threeday holiday at the end of the fast, would prohably start last weekend. Everyone, that is, except mc.

I had long wanted to go skiing in Lebanon. Partly because it seemed a loopy idea, partly because the country's main resort. Faraya-Mzaar, is only ahout 25km from the Mediterranean, meaning that you can ski and swim on the same day, and partly because I love Lebanese food. The special offer on Middle East Airlines flights to Beirut cut to £250 including taxes for departures in Fehruary – provided an irresistible opportunity. I did check that there was snow at Faraya-Mzaar before booking my ticket. But I didn't inquire about national holidays. If I had, I would not only have found out about

major religious group io Lebanoo, the Maronite Christians.

Travelling to the Lebanon for a skiing trip last weekend was as wise as going for a quiet stroll in Pamplona on the day of the Bull Ruo. The whole country was on holiday. And the Lebanese who had been waiting months for the chance to go skiing were all heading for the slopes.

According to the guidebooks, Faraya-Mzaar is an hour's drive from Beirut. Not last Friday afternoon it wasn't. The journey took me three-and-a-half hours – most of that time speot edging out of Beirut in a traffic jam of epic proportions. When I finally arrived at Faraya-Mzaar, it was full, of course. But the resort's director took pity on me, and put me up in the basemeot beneath his office, with the chef from the restaurant at the foot of the ski lifts as my flatmate.

The following morning I was woken by the rumble of Range Rovers and Jeep Cherokees as wealthy Beitt headed up the hill for the season's first skiing weekend. I followed them, and took two chairlifts from the 1,850m base to the Dome Jabal Dih at 2,296m. A gentle blue traverse led me to the chair-lift up to the Dome du Mzaar, the top of the resort at

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Faraya-Mzaar: pleasant but unchallenging skiing - and terrific views

brochure promised, you can see Beirut jutting out into the sea; this was a crystal clear day, and from the two peaks I could see almost the whole of Lebanoo (which is only half the size of Wales), from Mouot Hermon in the south to the

were even better. On a clear day, the to the mountains on the other side of the Bekaa Valley.

By Alpine standards, Faraya-Mzaar is a very small resort, with pleasaot but uochallenging skiing. For US\$26 a day at weekends (ski and boot hire cost Fitr hut also about last Sunday's feast day for the patron saint of the other fallen early in the week – but the views Tripoli coastline in the north, and inland main pistes serviced by eight lifts; six of ing off most of the residents.

The Phoenician rulns at Faqra

them are easy reds, and there are ou blacks. Eveo the off-piste area ("betweeo-piste" would be more accurate) is suitable for intermediates. The oursery slopes were the most difficult: the high proportion of beginners in the bank holiday crowd made it hard work to pick your way through the accidents that were about to happen, and those that already had. By mid-morning, the queue at the hottom of the lifts was 25 minutes long; by late afternoon, the resort estimated that 4,500 people had been on the slopes; by the evening the

exhausted chef (he had processed 1,300 orders during the day) added another

1,000 to the estimate.

Near Faraya-Mzaar is aoother of Lebanon's handful of resorts, the much quieter Faqra. It has the unusual attraction (for a ski resort) of extensive ancient ruins - and the Phoenician temple turned out to be a lot more interesting than the skiing. Faqra is quiet because it is a private club, where only the villa owners normally have access to the slope, but a letter of introduction from the Ministry of Tourism saw me past the gatepost and into the set for a high-altitude Lebanese Dallas, where even the Cadillacs wear chains - steel snow-chains rather than the gold ones hang-

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The ski area made Faraya-Mzaar seem huge. No piste map was available, I was told, since what could he seen from the bottom - a sort of extended nursery slope was all the skiing there was. Rather than putting on my skis. I headed back down to the coast. I had hoped to visit Lebanon's oldest resort. The Cedars, but the main road was still full of bank holiday traffic, and I wasn't confident that I had time for a "three-huur" journey, So I went down to the sea instead. You can ski and swint on the same day

DECTYSCRAPH: STEPHEN WOOD

in the Lebanon. But despite the beautifully warm weather, the Mediterranean was chilly, so I contented myself with paddling. I'd never paddled in thermal underwear before: I recommend it, And the Lebanese food? The menus in the resorts were disappointingly international, hut I'm not stupid - I didn't share my evenings in Faraya-Mzaar with a chef without asking a few pertinent questions, He directed me to the Idoudna restaurant on Beit Meri, une of the hills overlooking Beirut. For an exquisite Lebanese meal (in surroundings like a mock-baronial Beverly Hills folly), I can recommend Jdoudna. And after lunch, relieved to be a pedestrian again, I took a stroll - all the way across Beirut. If you are looking for the experience of a lifetime, I recommend that.

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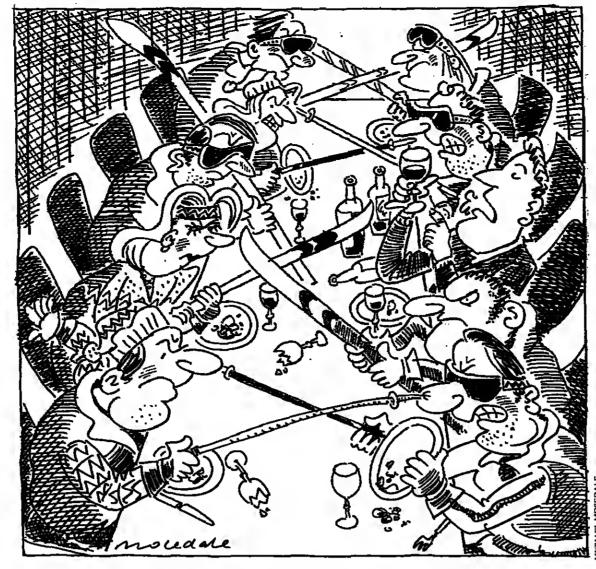
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Battle off the slopes

Take a bunch of strangers, one chalet ... and stir. By Max Flint



potatoes and shut up.

"Why did you serve the Bordeaux before the Merlot? You should of done it the other way

I was learning a lot from Pete, couldn't stop. Every mouthful hrought another observation from "my line of work" - this being the "I just don't see the point of adults.

marriage; I dunno why you bothered." he told the married end of "Now pass the wine before you

lot finish the red. We haven't had

This was my first attempt at skiing and my first chalet. Reeping my temper was as tough as kccp-

So. Courchevel in the French Alps. Tick, tick, tick in the "good" boxes. Great food, comfortable rooms, friendly staff. Everything worked - except chalet etiquette.

Wry comments on the coach matured into polite confrontaa fellow ski chalet guest. He tion in the chalet, then downright aggression at the dinner table. The divide reminded me of school trips to youth hostels, except here nobody could tell us to behave like

I tried, I promise you I tried, but by day two "our side" of the dinner table was flinching at everything he said. By day three we were recruiting members to our anti-Pete cause as fast as he turned off our choice of background music.

girls, Del Amitri, Simple Minds. That's what we should be listening to. Top Bands."

Dawn broke on beautiful day four, and his room was too cramped, the bed made him ache and the wine was too common for his sophisticated palate.

Sun kissed the mountains on day five and over dinner we had the chance to hear bow bodies decompose at crime scenes. Oh, and we had more roast potatoes than "his" side (now poorty organised into a wine militia led by him with his partner as sole recruit).

A cloudy day six and I could snowplough and parallel turn to the left but not the right. He, how-ever, spent the day "going above the cloud" to escape learner-"I've got a word to describe skiers who were, quite frankly,

ife is fragile. You learn that in my line of work."

In my skis pointing in the same that," he said of my choice of tape.

But I can't use it in front of the now demanded their own supply girls. Del Amitri, Simple Minds.

So, Courchevel in the French girls, Del Amitri, Simple Minds. 8.15pm next to his glass.

The evening brought our worst battle. He learnt one of our number owned a boat and quickly became Professor Nauticus, selftaught in seven seconds using the Complete Know-All Guide to Sailing. It meant the poor man who was a professional wine-buyer was left to breathe, but at the expense of our lone sailor going down with the gravy boat. We retaliated. We kept all the

carrots, potatoes and remaining wine down our end of the long table. He demanded some red, our team leader Sally filled her glass to the brim and passed him an empty bottle.

He snorted and complained that Sally's after-dinner eigarette

(as yet unlit) made it impossible for his partner to breathe, so he opened all the windows to let in a refreshing -12 degrees breeze. We stormed out to the pub, leaving dessert unguarded and totally at his mercy.

"What's this? Where's the fruit? 1 don't like ice cream! The other chalets have better desserts ..." The moan died as

Day seven and time to head home. In strict groups. Confused chalet guides watched as each group sat at the other end of the coach, the airport lounge and then the plane. Baggage handlers at Gatwick forced us briefly together, to mingle with cvil intent. He pushed our luggage so we kicked his before running to the Gatwick Express. How childish, but we felt we had won.

The late snow

he ski season started not with a but can be specified for a supplement. At present resorts are Les ment. At present resorts are Les ment. At present resorts are Les Arcs, La Plagne. Val d'Isère.

Tignes and Val Thorens. and December 1996 than in the whole of the previous season. But while pre-Christmas snowfalls of ... up to five metres had resorts rushing to open their chairlifts early. January failed to add to this early promise and there was little fresh powder on any resorts in Europe.

According to weather forecast-ers, this is about to change, and up to two metres of fresh snow is expected to fall across most European ski resorts in the next few days. David Hearns from the Ski Club of Great Britain is certainly hopeful that "this long-awaited snowfall will result in excellent onand off-piste conditions."

He adds that this should be particularly beneficial in Austria and Bulgaria, where the skiing has

been limited so far this season. So it would seem this is an excellent time to capitalise on late-availability skiing holidays but it would be a good idea to check conditions at individual resorts before you book. Below is a selection of offers, all prices are per person for seven nights. Thomson Ski prices are based on four people sharing.

21 February, Brides Les Bain. Neilson Ski, Apt, £299 (Eurostar) 22 February, Avoriaz, Thomson Ski, Apt. £310 (from Birmingham) 22 February, Courchevel, Le Ski, Chalet, £399 (from Gatwick) 23 February, Chamonix, Ski Esprit, Chalet, £412 (from Gatwick)

23 February, Morzine, Ski Esprit, Chalet, £298 (from Gatwick) 23 February, Verbier, Ski Esprit. Chalet, £340 (from Gatwick) 28 February, Tignes, Neilson Ski, Chalet, £509 (Eurostar) 1 March, Valmorel, Neilson Ski, Apt, £329 (from Gatwick) 1 March, Flaine, Neilson Ski, Apt. £269 (from Glasgow) 1 March, Courchevel, Le Ski, Chalet, £399 (from Manchester)

Crystal Ski's late-availability deals in France include: 22 February, flights (from a range of regional airports) plus self-catering chalet for four people – £199 per person. A resort is allocated on arrival,

A range of "accommodation and ferry" holidays in the French Alps is available through Motours. For example, a studio for four people from 1 March in Meribel

16 February, Neilson Ski, Macuganga, Hotel, £269 (from Glas-

gow) 23 February, First Choice Ski, Chiesa, Hotel, £299 (from Manchester) March, Thomson Ski, Livigno, Apt. £327 (from Manchester)

22 February, Niederau, Neilson Ski, Hotel, £369 (from Gatwick) I March, Kirchberg, Neilson Ski, Hotel, £419 (from Manchester and Birmingham ()

Bulgaria 9 March, Pamporovo, First Choice Ski, Hotel, £329 (from Gatwick) 9 March, Bovorets, Neilson Ski, Hotel, £259 (from Gatwick)

9 March, Sierra Nevada, Neilson Ski, Hotel, £369 (from Manches-

2 March, Pas de la Casa, First Choice Ski. Apyself-drive, £119

It is worth asking about ferry prices, lift passes and car hire. since many companies are offering deals. Ski Esprit, for example, is offering half-price for children on the prices quoted above.

If none of that tempts you, First Choice Ski currently has a package further afield in Banff. Canada: seven nights' hotel accommodation and flights from Manchester departing on 20 February for £389.

Crystal Ski 0181-399 5144; First Choice 0990 557 755; Le Ski 01484 548 996; Motours 01892 518555; Neilson Ski 0990 994444; Ski Esprit 01252 616789; Thomson 0990 329 329

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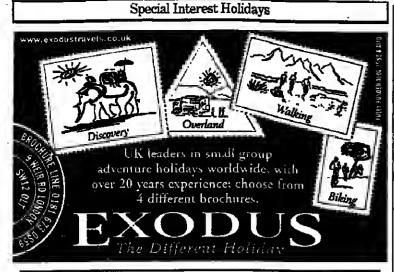
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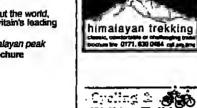
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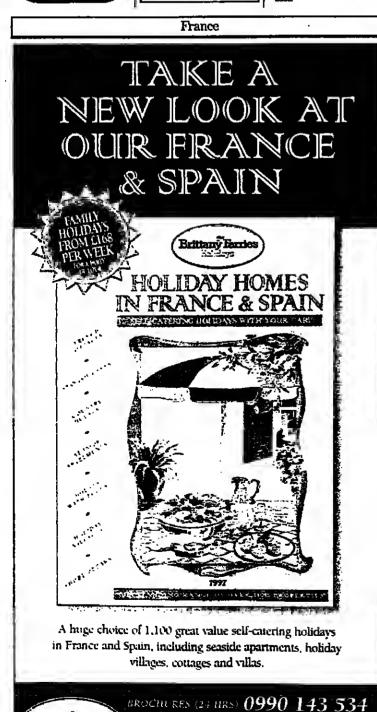


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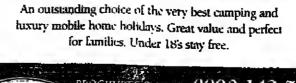
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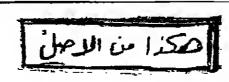
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The urge to have a go is irresistible

Jill Colchester and her sons spend a day at the Bristol Exploratory

uzzle over optical illusions, play with electricity, experiment with chemistry or walk into infinity with the help of a mirror. The Bristol Exploratory was Britain's first hands-on science centre - and the urge to have a go is still almost irresistible. The huge variety of exhibits (known bere as "plores" because you explore them) could keep you here for days. Everything is made on site. clearly explained and easy to operate.

The Exploratory is constantly changing as exhibits are improved and new ones added. It occupies two floors of the magnificent Temple Meads Old Station, one of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's most impressive structures. Each exhibit demands a physical relationship to make it work - not just pushing buttons on com-puter displays - so children and adults learn through experience rather than having to remember what they have seen on yet another screen.

If you had ever wondered what causes a tornado, why the Clifton suspension bridge stays up, or how geologists find out about the composition of rock, this is the place to be – an educational adventure playground.

The Visitors
Jill Colchester, dance teacher, took her sons Kito, 11, and Merry, 8.

Jill: The Exploratory bad a very good ambience and was visually very exciting from the smart black-and-red entrance to the exhibits themselves. As we walked in, there was the lovely sound of children enjoying themselves. It felt spacious, so there was no desperate rush to get on something immediately. The layout was excellent; I liked the way the space was split into areas dealing with different topics like light, electricity and chemistry. The effect of going from the somewhat darkened room on the ground floor to the naturally lit upper floor was startling.

I think it is valuable that the children felt so much a part of everything. Most of the the train, the beacon light, the television, exhibits relied on you doing something to them but there were a few unexpected things like the colour maze which just required you to think about it. I also thought the Stradivarium sound room was a nice surprise.

The children spent a short time on each thing, being lured by the one next door stand just by looking at them. I enjoyed the esting.



The Deal Bristol Exploratory, Bristol Old Station, Temple Meads, Bristol, BS1 6QU (0117 music room where we played with something that made sound louder or softer. Kito: I have always been interested in sci-

Opening Times: daily from 10am-5pm, Closed for one week over Christmas. Admission: adults, £5: children (5-17), £3.50; family ticket, £15. ence so I love these sorts of places but I think this is a great place for everyone. There were never-ending things to do, lots to read and lots to learn but nearly every-

Access: the Exploratory is two minutes' walk from Bristol Temple Meads station which connects with local services and the Intercity network. By car it is well signposted from the city centre. It lies on many bus routes: nos 8 & 9 connect from the city centre.

Food: a small museum café serves interesting to see how much power is snacks and light huncbes geared for children: jacket potatoes from £2.50; pizza, £1.60, beans on toast £1. Open school holidays and weekends only. Alternatively everything. The air canon was good. I hit one end and it sent a puff of air quite a make a nice picture with the Harmonobring your own packed lunch to eat in the designated area. graph and got good echoes out of the echo tube. I also liked the 3D noughts-

Cloakroom & tollets: no supervised cloakroom. Coats can be left at your own risk on the ground floor by the toilers. There is a disabled toilet and baby changing facilities.

Catherine Stebbings

In search of the perfect family break

Conferences are squeezing children out of hotels, writes Deborah Jackson

ing at the grand Victorian the nail on the head," he

establishment that weekend. said. "This is what English Yet the hotel was nearly full - with conference parties. is that not enough families As I struggled with my noisy toddler along the enridors. 1 felt sorry for delegates trying to concentrate on their

Further investigation revealed that £1m of refurbishments favoured corporate, rather than junior, interests. The pool had been redesigned to allow the construction of extra conference rooms, which meant parents could no longer watch their children from the open-plan bar. A bigger gym had been built where the children's playroom used to be - the new playroom was small and dark and out of bounds to

I put it to Nigel Edmund- properly catered for, without

hotels are like. The problem go to England for their hol-

idays, and hotels end up with casual visitors and conference delegates." Some chain hotels are even filling in their swimming pools to make space for more long tables and overhead

projectors. Since children are barred from many country house hotels, sneered at in middle-range guest-houses and ignored nearly everywhere else, where should the discerning family go for a civilised weekend? Unless you have city-cen-

tre motel mentality, it can be hard to find the perfect family weekend hideaway -

was once sent to try out an Jones - editor of the 1996 dominating the day. Those next door. There are special award-winning family family guide And Children hotels which do open their winter breaks at £195 per hotel on the south coast. Come Too - that hotel loyOn arrival, we discovered alty is distressingly split be treasured. We have chothat our three children were between family and confer- sen four of the best. The only allowance towards horseridthe only small children stay- ence interests. "You've hit conference should be over

> The Old Bell, Abbey Row, Malmesbury, Wilts (01666 822344). Sister hotel to the famous Woolley Grange at Bradford on Avon, the Old Bell claims to be one of the oldest inns in the country. The philosophy is relaxed elegance with family friendliness: silver service, stylish bedrooms, well-equipped children's playroom and

nanny-on-site. Parents relax by ancient fireplaces (the oldest dates back to 1220) while children are fed high tea. The Den is open every day and nannics' services are free during opening hours. Malmesbury is a small, busy town beside a picturesque twist in the River Avon. In 960 it was the capisomewhere children are 1al of all England. You can't miss the Abbey - it's right

ing gliding, golf, tours, beauty treatments or the wine list. Children pay £5 only per

meal taken. Polmaily House Hotel, Drumnadrochit, Loch Ness, Invernesshire (01456 450343). One of my favourite hideaways, and the children's all-time best, with a menagerie of animals, a stable full of ponies, a lawn strewn with bikes, an indoor heated pool, treebouse,

before long. But they could have got more involved if they had wanted. Kito reck-

oned we needed at least three hours there

a disadvantage because he has difficulty

reading. He had to work out what to do

by doing it. I think as the place is geared

towards children of primary-school age

more pictorial instructions would bave

Merry: The Exploratory was really good. There were loads of things to do and

although there were lots of people we

didn't bave to queue for anything. The

best thing was the really long tube which

you talked down and it echoed back. I also

made everything work on pedal power -

long way to a target and if you stood in

Downstairs was quite dark and you had

to read more to understand what to do. The

front of it you got hit.

He enjoyed it immensely. Merry was at

to get round everything.

adventure playground, day trips and organised activities. Adult attractions include a tennis court. permanently blazing log fire and cozy library. There's bicycle and ski hire, stalking, riding and fishing in the hotel's trout pond. Meals are plucked from the surrounding countryside: Aberdeen Angus becf. Tay salmon and Glen Affric trout. Full Highland

breakfast includes game haggis. Special rate for two three nights, B&B, £399.

thing was hands on.

pared to a light bulb.

things upstairs were much easier to under- cleaned water which I found very inter-

I really liked the electricity section.

There was a plasma tube which you put

your bands on either side and it made a

green band go from one band to the other showing the current go across it. I was very

interested in the display about artificial

lighting. Pedal Power was good. It was

needed to run a television or a radio com-

I failed to make an arch upstairs

and-crosses. There was a good exhibition

on water where they explained how they

Holdfast Cottage, Little Malvern. Worcestershire (01684 310288). Featuring a teddy bear in every delightful room. Holdfast Cottage dates back to the 17th century, with a 60-year-old wisteria and a view that's (obviously) as old as the hills. Grown-ups come for the

food and the impeccable service. but the infant equipment list is superb: stairgate, sand pit, spare push-chairs, see-saw, disposable bibs, high chair and family pets on the large lawn. Baby back-carriers can be borrowed, and picnics packed for hill walks. Special breaks for any two nights are £54 per adult per night, under-fives free, five to 10s charged according to appetite. A one-off charge of £5 for put-up beds.

Armathwaite Hall Hotel, Bassenthwaite Lake, Keswick, Cumbria (01768



Kids' choice: the Polmaily House Hotel, Loch Ness

slopes of Skiddaw and farm. Grisedale Pike.

weekend activity programme for junior guests. There are swimming galas, lessons in chocolate cookery,

776551). This grand, 17th-century manor takes head-of-the-table position over survival training, plus free Bassenthwaite Lake look- entry to "Trotters and ing south to the famous Friends", an idyllic animal

risedale Pike. Any two nights from The hotel's Free Bee Club £77.50 per adult per night, includes a highly imaginative including splendid, sixcourse table d'hôte dinner. Children sharing their parents' room go free, including

Are we nearly there?

A round up of half-term ideas for kids

Craft workshops at the Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, London E2 (0171-739 9893) 18-21 February, Tues-Sat 10.30am-12.45 and 2-4pm, Sun pm only. Children can take part in textile design. metalwork and paper-making. On 21 February three- to five-year-olds will have an opportunity to make coloured window lights. All activiries are free.

Reliving history at Warwick Castle, Warwick, (01926 406600) 15-23 February, daily 10am-5pm. Visitors will be swept back to medieval times during six daily performances. The 14th-century Great Hall pro-vides a magnificent backdrop to the reconstructions of hand combat. while in the castle's armoury visitors can handle heavy swords and try on armour for themselves. Admission is £8.75 for adults and £5.25 for children.

DinoMites, Croydon Clock Tower, Katherine Street, Croydon (0181-253 1030) Mon-Sat 11am-5am, Sun 12-5pm. An exhibition aimed at kids of 12 and under which takes visitors on an educational journey through the early years of dinosaurs. There's a quiz sbeet available, and other activities invite children to make their own dinosaur landscapes, create clay models of fossils, and play archacological and excavation games.
Admission £3 standard/ £2 concessions, under-fours are free.

Old Father Time at the Wallace Collection, Hertford House, Manchester Square, London W1 (0171-935 0687) 19 February, 10.30am-12.15. An activity session which explores the meaning of allegory through representations of Old Father Time and other figures in the collection. The event is suitable for six- to 12-year-olds. Admission £2, booking essential.

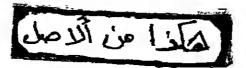
Star Trek, the Gas Hall, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham (0121 235 1966), daily 10am-5pm. As well as original costumes. props and sets from the Star Trek TV series and feature films there are videos featuring Captains Kirk and Picard, Commander Sisko and other members of the crew. There is a particular emphasis on the idea that Star Trek has always been based on scientific fact, and visitors can see how some once futuristic screen gadgets, such as the portable phone and automatic translator, bave become a reality. Admission £3.95, concessions £3, family ticket

The Happlest Days of Your Life? Ordsall Hall Museum, Taylorson Street, Salford (0161 872 0251) Mon-Fri 10am-12.30, 1.30-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. An exhibition about school life since Victorian times which may well cause children to think more fondly of their own modern schools. The exhibition covers subjects such as classroom routines, equipment, discipline and dress. On the more light-hearted front there is a "Truc Stories Blackboard" which encourages people to confess to any school pranks they may have got away with. Free

The Met Office Weather Gallery The Beacon, Whitehaven (01946 592 302) Tues-Sun 10am-4.30pm. The gattery aims to raise awareness in youngsters about issues such as global warming. It also offers do-it-yourself TV weather forecasting and a weather machine that explains how various weather processes work. Admission £3.30 adults, £2.75 OAPs, £2.10 children, students and unemployed.

Abigail Rayner





Duff Hart-Davis

Forest rangers

went out at

night with a

thermal

imager, as

SAS. They

used by the

were looking

for deer - but

in the dark ...

rangers. Robert Colin-Stokes and Andy Page, this

was a trial run, the first

time they had used the

Derek Stocker, the

commission's wildlife

officer for the south and

west, who has conducted

by conventional means is

notoriously difficult. Even

Counting woodland deer

extensive trials over the

past two years.

imager. But they had an expert tutor in the form of

that's not all

that glowed

Helen Lewis finds members of an Iron Age re-enactment group on their mettle

trolling around the Glastonbury lake village, admiring the Iron Age dwellings, don't be alarmed f you come face to face with a few Celtic warriors sharpening their swords, turning knife handles on footdriven lathes or even going into hattle around reed-thatched roundhouses.

The modern Silures tribe is a history re-enactment group whose members willingly spend weekends enduring the lifestyle of first-century British Čelts. They inhabit reconstructed roundhouses on sites of ancient settlements. sleeping on earthen floors - and, in good Celtic tradition, fighting.

"I spend five days a week as a bereavement counsellor and occupational therapist; for the other two, I time travel." Eryl Jones feels she has found the perfect solution to a stressful Nineties lifestyle.

Mrs Jones is joined by 30 or so others at weekends. They share a love of history and the compulsion to do something a little more King Arthur-ish than joining a local historical society. Members of the original Silures tribe

were described as short, wiry, darkhaired and extremely fierce, with tribal lands in Wales stretching from the River Severn to western Gwent and as far north as the Brecon Beacons. The modern group is mainly from South Wales, hut English members are welcome.

'We try to emulate Iron Age Celtic life as accurately as possible to show people it was not a shabby or primitive era. This was a time when skilled people lived within an organised society." Mrs Jones says.

The group is in hig demand, not only for "hack, slash and feast" shows, but also for demonstrating Celtic crafts, assisting school parties in the teaching only vegetables and pulses that were of Iron Age history and archaeology. and doing film work. An enormous amount of time is put into researching the era. "Authenticity is the key, and everything we do is based on archaeological finds," says Mrs Jones, "Our costumes are hand-stitched, using material either woven on appropriate looms or first checked under a magnifying glass to ensure that the cloth could have been produced in the first century. The colours must be as near as possible to lest wore heavy iron jewellery, and war-



Weekend warriors: members of the modern-day Silures tribe

the plant dyes used at the time, and our tools, weapons and jewellery are produced on ancient-style forges.
"Our food includes stewed and spit-

roasted meat, cooked on open fires, and woad plants. The Silures were a tough lot and were available at the time. This means onions never fully conquered by the Romans. After a series of clashes and struggles, they were allowed to keep their chiefs are out - they were introduced by the Romans at a later date. We also eat unleavened bread and honey cakes."

As first-century Celts, they live in windowless roundhouses lit by candles made from animal fat, sleep on mud floors, and cook on chimney-less fires in the centre of a single room. A Celt's life seems to have been harsh, but they evidently loved self-adornment: the wealth-

riors painted their faces and bodies with intricate patterns before battle. The modern-day Celts use the vivid blue extract from boiled leaves of wild

and were given a degree of self-rule, although their taxes went to Rome. Eryl Jones's partner, Steve, provides warfare training. He manages to comhenllys, Dyfed; St Fogans, near Cardiff; the Glastonbury lake village; Butser warfare training. He manages to comhine the roles of chief battle captain and safety officer. Mrs Jones is events

"Anyone is welcome to join us for one event to see if they enjoy it. After Bristol BSIS SPY (01179 374059).

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three shows they can become an associate member and take on a character to re-enact, making their own clothes. shoes and any other items they need," Mrs Jones says. "A member is expected to learn a craft or skill in keeping with their chosen character to demonstrate at events. We have no rnles on the person's status, as long as it is an accurate portrayal."

Iron Age farm, near Portsmouth, and New Barn, near Dorchester. Details: Mrs Eryl Jones, 20 Mendip View, Wick,

others tell their children that if they eat enough carrots they will be able to see in the dark. That was exactly what I found I could do one might in the New Forest this week - although the magic element that made it possible was not root vegetables, but a chunky,

telescope-like instrument known as a thermal imager. Out counting deer with the Forestry Commission rangers, I moved into a strange, spooky environment in which heat, rather than light, reveals the secrets of night life on the land. The imager picks up the radiant warmth given off by living creatures, trees and buildings, and is so sensitive that it can detect a rabbit a mile away. Any heat source

shows up as a reddish glow. Cruising in a Land Rover between the woods around New Park Manor - now a hotel, but originally one of the hunting lodges built by Charles I – we soon picked up deer feeding out in a field. The night was pitch-dark, with a thin crescent of moon showing through bare branches, and the naked eye could see nothing. But through the imager even L a beginner, could discern that the bright pink shapes standing out from the hlack background were fallow bucks. When we approached within 100

metres, their details became so clear that ghostly flickers of red bounced off their antlers as they turned their heads back and forth.

There were also a dozen rabbits going about their business. As I watched, a fox appeared and made a rush at one of them; when its target escaped, it sat down to take stock of the situation, quite unaware that humans had eyes on it. In this surreal scene, the true colours of the animals were immaterial: because it was their body heat that we were seeing, all showed up the same reddish-pink. For the young local

with a big team of trained spotters, many animals are missed, and totals arrived at are generally reckoned to be one-third below the real ones. In recent years it has

> count by collecting dungsamples, but this method also has many detractors. Enter the thermal imager, which started life as a targeting device on surface-to-air missile

become fashionable to

systems. Two years ago, the Forestry Commission borrowed one from the SAS, and was so impressed that it hired another from the maker. Thorn EMI, for six months. Again, the results were excellent. Now it has bought one of its own, at the trifling cost of

Trials in Scotland, Yorkshire, the Marches (in Shropshire) and the West Country have revealed that earlier counts were indeed serious underestimates. For instance, in Mortimer Forest, near Ludlow, the experienced resident ranger, John Speed, reckoned that he had 200 fallow deer on his ground. In a single night with the imager counters he found 460.

The merit of the device is threefold: it is very accurate: it does not disturb the deer, and it enables the counters to sex most of the animals they see. Furnished with precise data of this kind, the Commission is in a far better position to explain to the public why annual culls are necessary (rangers have to shoot about 1,000 deer in the New Forest every year to

keep the population stable).
As Mr Stocker found, the view through an imager seems to take some getting used to. The heat patterns given off by sheep and red deer (which have very thick coats) are much the same. so that at long range it is hard to tell the difference. Roe deer, in contrast, stand out very well, and at this time of the year hucks are easily distinguished, because their growing antlers are covered by the thick, hairy skin known as velvet, and this, being full of blood vessels, shows up brightly.

Beginners, however, do not take long to cotton on to the niceties of the new system, "There are 12 failow does out there," reported Robert at one point during our night cruise. "One of them's just defecated, and the droppings are still glowing red."

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Anna Pavord continues her series on gardening principles. This week: pruning

lants present many of the same characteristics as children. An intense period of hringthem on, worrying about right food and so on, is foled by an equally intense iod of trying to hold them k. But gardeners do have enormous advantage over rents: there is no equivalent oruning in child care. t is a mistake, though, to bk at secateurs primarily as ensive weapons. Good uning is a matter of working th, rather than against, a ant. The most important ing, before you make any ats, is to have clearly in your and the essential qualities of e plant you are about to

If you have a tall, upright hrub blocking a view in the arden, it is pointless to chop e top off each season in an fort to refashion it as a short. t shrub. Instead, you must me to terms with the irritatfact that you, or the previ-s owner of the garden, have inted it in the wrong place. erefore, it should be moved ther than heavily redesigned. me tall, upright shrubs – it ay be philadelphus or Maywering kerria – do need regar pruning, but this is not to ake them sborter. It is to sure a plentiful display of esb new growth that will wer more freely than the

Pruning is something we spose on shrubs for our own ads rather than theirs. Shrubs inpruned, as anyone who has aken over a neglected garden knows only too well. Away from the flashing knife, jasmine just keeps getting bigger. So do pyracantha, forsythia and weigela. Pruning is a useful tool in erecting the delicate barrier against chaos which is at the core of garden-making. A garden is a construct, a reordering of the elements earth, water, leaves, flowers that exist untrammelled on the other side uf the barrier.

3 Armed with secateurs and some strong, long-handled loppers, you become a sculptor, releasing the forms suggested by the material to hand. With overgrown shrubs, you have a choice: sculpting or moulding. The secund is the more

drastic; cutting the whole thing to the ground and working with the new growths that spring up the following season. This is the best course to take if you want to move a shrub. Unencumbered by top growth, it will be easier to manhandle. It will also find the business of putting down new roots easier if it does not simultaneously have to send food and drink up

This is what I am going to do with an Alba rose that has become ridiculously large and hlots out the planting behind . Once I had become irritated it, I saw how little it was



PHOTOGRAPH: GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

You've got to be cruel to be kind

contributing after its hrief, though admittedly heady, season of flowering. It needs a less prominent position. There is still time, before it gets into full growing gear, to cut it down and move it to a new bil-

From this time of the year onwards, gardeners get infected by a kind of fever. We want to get outside and start flailing around, trying to regain possession of the battleground. There is a tendency to snip away at everything in sight reducing all shrubs, whatever their habit, to barbered buns. Resist the temptation. The garden may be tidy, but by reducing all the shrubs to the same common denominator you will

have missed the point of growing them at all. In the most general terms, shrubs that flower in the first

half of the year do so on growth made during the previous year. These can be pruned after flowering. Shrubs that flower in the second half of the year bear the flowers on the new wood they have made in the first balf. These are best not pruned straight after flow-

ering, but left until about now. Pruning kicks a shrub into top growing gear. "Crumbs." it says to itself, "someone's trying to do me in," and it pumps energy into dormant growth buds lying along its stems to replace what it feels it has lost. If you pruned a late summer-

flowering buddleia or cary-opteris when it had just finished flowering, the resultant tender new growths would coincide fatally with the first frosts. So you leave them until February before pruning.

Buddleia thrives perfectly

well without any pruning, as you can see on any railway embankment. But, left unpruned, the hushes get very big. And the trusses of flower coming from old wood are smaller than the ones that are produced on new wood. So, to get the shrub to produce the showiest flowers, you need to persuade it to produce new wood each season.

First, cut out all weak and straggly growths altogether.

Then cut hack the rest of the growths drastically, leaving just one or two pairs of buds on each branch. Old specimens may become congested after years of this treatment. If a likely looking new shoot springs from below the main framework, take the opportu-

nity to saw away one of the old branches completely. Rambling roses and rambler types such as 'Albertine' should have been dealt with when they finished flowering last year. The climbers that need attention now are the climbing sorts of hybrid tea roses.

Roses in this group flower on new wood but (unlike ramblers) rarely produce new growths from the base of the

olant. You are much more likely to find new shoots grow ing from old wood higher up the plant. Cut old stems back to the junction with the new growth and tie the new growth in. Cut back the lateral growths (the side branches springing from the main ones) to about six inches. Now and again, it pays to take out a stem completely at ground level, especially when the main framework of a climbing rose bas crept higher and higher up its support. This drastic reduction sometimes have a the rose to send out a new shoot from the base. A befty spring mulch will help, too.

All dogwoods, such as Carnus alba Elegantissima', grown for their decorative winter hark, should be cut back hard now. The bark colour is much brighter on new growth than old, so you want as much of it

I cheat here and cut just half back each season. That is because I do not want to lose entirely the bulk of the shrub in spring. For the all-or-nothing effect, cut back all growths to within three inches of the ground. Ambivalent gardeners can cut out the dullestcoloured wood and leave the rest. 'Elegantissima' has pretty, variegated foliage, so there is some merit in having this sooner rather than later.

Pruning practicalities

This checklist may help new gardeners to decide which pruning treatment to deal out to common shrubs, and avoid unnecessary haircuts.

No regular pruning; occasional thinning and removal of dead shoots: Abelia, abutilon, acer, camellia, evergreen ceanothus, cistus, cotoneaster, cytisus, elaeagnus, fatsia, genista, hamamelis, hibiscus, hydrangea, magnolia, osmanthus, pyracantha (but can be trimmed to shape if necessary May-July), rhododendron, senecio (cut back flower stems in autumn), skimmia, syringa,

Remove one-third of oldest shoots in spring or after flowering each year, to encourage fresh flowering shoots: Berberis, choisya, cotinus, deutzia, escallonia, forsythia, bydrangea (or leave unpruned), winter jasmine. kerria, philadelphus, phlomis, potentilla, ribes, rosemary, spiraea, symphoricarpos, viburnum (early flowering),

Cut back hard in spring Buddleia, caryopteris, deciduous ceanothus, ceratostigma, cornus (foliage forms), fuchsia (frost usually does it for you), lavatera,



TOOLSHED: GREENHOUSES

iven even the slightest encouragement, gardening tends to progress rapidly from necessary chore to obsessive passion. At some point in this transition you are bound to have cause to consider buying a greenhouse. Do it. With the exception of a new and bigger garden, nothing can so immediately and dramati-

cally extend your horticultural horizons.

The standard greenhouse is 6ft x 8ft, but any sensible gardener will go as big as he or she can afford and accommodate. It will fill up remarkably quickly. When you sow a packet of seeds you don't need a lot of room, but by the time the seedlings are pricked out into three-inch pots it is a different story. Some greenhouses are designed to accept add-on sections, allowing for expansion in line with demand, which seems eminently sensible. For the tightest spaces, a hexagonal design provides a lot of growing room for the area covered and looks natty into the bargain.

A big decision is whether to go for wood or metal. The imprudence of using a framework containing iron is illustrated by the small fortune recently spent on restoring the Victorian palm house at Kew. Iron rusts - and greenhouses are damp places. The majority of greenhouses are now of non-corroding aluminium which is both cheap and virtually maintenance-free. A new oft x8ft one can be your for less than £300. However, its bright, silvery surface tends to disagreeably obtrusive. An acrylic paint finish, available in a variety of neutral colours, spares this emharrassment but bumps up the price considerably.

Wooden greenhouses have the great advantage of being more attractive to look at. The main drawback is that most softwoods rot fairly rapidly unless they are painted or varnished and regularly maintained. The only way to avoid this major inconvenience is to use a naturally durable timber such as Western Red Cedar. This will resist rot for decades without any treatment, and weather to a pleasing silvery grey. Unfortunately, wouldn't you just know it, they cost at least twice as much as an equivalent aluminium model.

Horticultural glass is supplied as standard to most greenhouses. Other possible options are toughened glass (expensive), or various plastics such as polycarbonate, polythene or rigid UPVC.
All are less good at transmitting light and have a limited life span so are only worth considering if there is a real risk that children, or van-

dals, may break the glass.
It always makes sense to look before you buy, and larger garden centres usually have a number of show greenhouses. Check the framework is sturdy, with no big gaps between panels. The door should fit well, open easily and preferably be wide enough for a wheelbarrow. The ridge height should be a minimum of 7ft sloping down to not less than 5ft at the eaves.

The biggest problem with most off-the-shelf greenhouses is madequate ventilation. The area of the opened vents should be around one sixth that of the floor. For a 6ft x 8ft greenhouse this means a minimum of three: preferably two in the roof and one at lower level, so cool air can be drawn in at the bottom as bot air leaves from the top. Most manufacturers will fit extra vents for

a reasonable charge – money well spent.

The shopping list does not stop at the structure itself. You will certainly want staging (wide, worktop-height shelving) along at least one side. This needs to be sturdy and easy to remove. Running mains electricity out to a greenhouse can be an expensive undertaking but it will greatly increase your options. An electric fan beater is the most efficient method of beating a greenbouse and a heated propagator is a great belp for raising both seed and cuttings.

Finally, a warning. Putting up a greenhouse can be like struggling with an inscrutable puzzle. You would be wise to get in at least one extra pair of hand and be prepared for a long and frus-

Tom Barber

and defer the state of the stat

ust published is the new Yellow Book (NGS £3.50), listing the 3.500 gardens open this year under the National Gardens Scheme. Early openings to eatch displays of snowdrops have become an increasingly popular. Among gardens open either this weekor next are:

Bucks Great Barfield. High Wycombe (01494 563741), home of the snowdrop king, Richard Nutt. Open next Sunday (2-5pm). Admission £1. Cambs Anglesey Abbey,

Lode (01223 811200) a fine National Trust garden where 50 different kinds of snowdrop re-emerged after undergrowth had been cleared. Open this weekend ind next (11am-4pm). Admission £3.20. Devon Little Cumbre. Pennsylvania Rd. Exeter (01392 58315). Dr and Mrs

ohn Lloyd's half-acre garien with snowdrops, helle-(res and small trees choen for their bark. Open next Sunday (2-5pm) Admission £1. Yonder Hill, Colaton Raleigh (01395 667541), part of a four-acre mallholding with snowrops (and rheas). Open ext Sunday (11am-5pm). Admission £1.

Glos Minchinhampton Bardens, Minchinhampton. Nwo gardens, Lammas Park and St Francis (01453 \$52188) with giant snowtops and trough gardens. Open tomorrow (11am-430pm). Admission £2. The Old Rectory, Duntisbourne Rouse, nr Cirencester, described brilliantly by owner Mary Keen in ber



recent book Creating a Garden [Conran Octopus, £25). Winter flowers a speciality. Open Monday 24 Feb (11am-3pm). Admission £2. Cinderdine Cottage, Dymock, nr Newent (01531 890265). A huge collection of snowdrops, both species and hybrids. Open tomorrow, and 18 and 20 Feb (12-5pm) Admission £1. Hants Little Court, Craw-

lev. nr Winchester (01962 776365), peaceful, sheltcred garden with a new spring woodland walk. Open tomorrow, and 17 and 18 Feb (2-5.30pm). Admission £1.50. Kent Goodnestone Park, Wingham, nr Canterbury. Jane Austen stayed bere amongst the spring bulbs. Open tomorrow (12-6pm). Admissiun £2.30.

Kent 190 Maidstone Rd. Chatham, snowdrops. aconites and a scree garden. Open next Sunday [2-5pm). Admission £1.50.

Lines 21 Chapel St. Hac-conby (01778 5703 1-1). Hellehores and snowdrops are to the fore at the moment. Open today and tomorrow, and next weekend (11am-5pm). Admission £1. Manor Farm, Keisby, a planisman's half-acre garden with good collections of snowdrops and helicbores. Open next Sat and Sun (11am-4pm). Admission £1.

London Myddelton House Gardens, Bulls Cross, Enfield (01992 713838), the famous gardens created by the Edwardian plant enthusiast Edward A Bowles. Open next Sunday and Monday (2-5pm). Admission £1.25.

Norfolk Rainthorpe Hall, Tasburgh, south of Norwich (01508 470618). Snowdrops and hazel coppice just beginning to swing with catkins. Open next Sunday

(1-4pm). Admission £2.50. Notts Hodsock Priory, Blyth, (01909 591204). Thousands of aconites and snowdrops. Open daily (10am-4pm) for four weeks during Feh and March (check with the Priory for start of show). Admission £2.50.

Oxon Broadwell House, Broadwell, nr Lechlade (01367 860230), good topiary and early spring bulbs. Open tomorrow (2-4pm). Admission £1.50. Shropshire Erway Farm House, Dudleston Heath, nr

Ellesmere (01691 75479), rare and interesting plants includ-ing many different kinds of snowdrop. Open next Sunday (1-5pm). Admission £1.50. Surrey 9 Raymead Close,

Fetcham opening for the first

time next Sunday (12-4pm). Admission £1.50. Wilts Lacock Abbey Gar-dens, Lacock, carpets of aconites and snowdrops at this National Trust property. Open today and tomorrow, and next weekend (2-5pm). Admission £1.50.

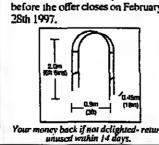
Worcs Dial Park, Chaddesley Corbett, (01562 777451). Cullections of snowdrops in this recently developed garden. Open 19 and 20 Feb (1-5pm). Admission £1.



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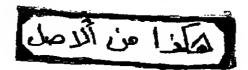
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A powdery habit

have the misfortune of attending the same gym as a loud female colleague of my husband. Whenever I turn up, there she is, bellowing at me over the burn of the hairdrier, with her head between her legs and her butt in the air.

This is the woman who, after my first week there, hollered over to me "Are the pounds coming off yet?" I hadn't joined to lose pouods - I didn't oeed to lose pounds, but I couldn't thick of a smart enough riposte for this La Perla sporting, Prada toting, Lotus driving, size 8 mother of two.

I have two theories about her: a) she is only trying to make conversation, b) she is a bitch from hell. The fact that she has encouraged a little addiction of mine, forces me to opt for "b". Twice recently she has extolled the virtues of YSL's Touche Eclat coocealor just a little too pointedly.

The truth is, ever since my first Clinique "Boous Time" freebie (the department stores are always dishing out goodies like this) my makeup bag has been breeding like billy-o. I have become so dependent oo the array of products which Clinique has so kindly Bonus-Timed me with, that I oeed one of those Samsonite vanity cases

to go shopping.

If I leave the table several times during the course of a meal and return with my eyes looking a little watery, it's not because I've been shooting up in the loos, just

Once the mini freebies have run out they have to be replaced with their booa fide big brothers. The tiny 7ml

pot of Dramatically Different Moisturising Lotico will not bulge in the slimmest of bags, and cao even be discreetly applied in the back of a taxi, but whip out the 125ml bottle and you look like an air stewardess or an

ancient dowager.

The 5g teeny tub of Transparency 3" allows for a quick powder fix when no ooe is looking, hut you need to roll up your sleeves before you can powder up with the 35g version. In case of suddeo tears or unexpected swimming pools the Full Potential Mascara needs a waterproof understudy and one Different Lipstick is oever enough: "Glazed Wildberry" for positive powerlipped days, a hijou pot of "Tenderheart" Glosswear for trendy waif-like weekeods and "Super Spice" for sultry

sex goddess soirees. There are 14 Boous items among the 21 pieces which constitute my bag of tricks. Make that 22, if you count my latest purchase - Touche Eclat by Yves Saint Laureot. But I'm oot going to let ber catch me using the stuff.

The winners by a nose Clinique Bonus Time is oow on at Harrods, Knightsbridge, Loodoo from 13 February uotil 1 March.

Buy two products to receive "Makeup and More": cosmetic bag, Dramatically Different Moisturizing Lotion, Turnaround Cream, Rinse-off Eye Makeup Solvent, Eye-shadow Duo, Loog Last Lipstick, Full Potential Mascara and the oew tinted moisturiser - Almost

Touche Eclot by Yves Saint Laureot, £17.50.

Cabbage catwalk: are we tired of flavourless supermarket vegetables, or are looks just as

Never mind the flavour

Taste may seem to be the obvious answer, but the truth is much more complex.

It's oo coiocideoce that supermarkets give their produce sections pride of place right by the entrance. Those multi-coloured displays of sleek, shiny fruit and vegetables are inteoded to give an instant impressioo of freshoess, health and cleanliness.

We've come to expect our vegetables to be scrubbed clean of the evidence of their earthy origins, to have smooth, wrinkle-free skins, the brightest of complexions and uniformly perfect figures.

The growers, meanwhile. bave their own list of requirements. To them vegetables must be high yield in order to be cheap and pleotiful, fastgrowing, resistant to disease, long lasting and easy to clean and package, which means conforming to strict rules about size and shape. But with all these often con-

flicting demands oo our poor old peas and cabbages, something has to be sacrificed in the mix. All too often, that something is flavour.

Those with vested interests will deny it botly,

our vegetables? take bome the plumpest tomato or the crispiest cab-bage, only to find it tastes limp, watery and bland.

Only this week master chef Jean Conil - president of the Epicurean Master Chef's Society-claimed the customer was being held to ransom over the quality of food by the supermarket chains.

"Of course taste has taken second place," says Jackie Gear, a food writer and director of the Henry Doubleday Research Association, a charity dedicated to organic gardening. "If that wasn't the case why would supermarkets oow be introducing labels oo foods like tomatoes saying Specially selected for flavour? Surely that should be taken for

"It may be true that in the past the pursuit of appearance meant flavour tended to be ignored,"

David Sawday, corporate affairs manager of Tesco. 'This is a very competitive

they want, and the truth is the supermarkets. It's just that that appearance is very when you have four huge cor-

One factor is that the range of vegetables available to us remains limited," says Bob Sherman, who is gardens curator at the Heory Doubleday Research Association.

"Supermarkets prohably only offer five or six varieties of carrots, perhaps three early varieties and three main crops," be says. "They may taste OK, but if you have oever had the experience of a wide selection, you don't have anything to mpare that taste with.

They also don't give you any information at all about them oo the label, so you don't know what you are buying.

Wheo you're buying wine, you

to with vegetables? I uoder-

stand that people doo't want to

be overloaded with informa-

doo't just look for a red or a For instance we all think car-

white, so why should you have rots should be orange. But

tion, but it would be nice to them orange - along the way

know a little bit, like the vari- there have been all shades of

hat do we coo-sumers want from experience what it is like to giving our customers what "It isn't a deliberate con by seeds for these are still available, but you never see them normally. porations competing, they are going to take things to their logical cooclusion, fighting to

partly our own fault. A spokesman for the Brassica Growers' produce the cheapest and the

This limited choice may be

varieties, such as coloured califlowers, but there may problems - for instance gre varieties might be perceived unripe. We have to give peple what they want and th like white cauliflowers!"

"We would like to offer oth

He does, however, deter change in public mood. "The is a tremendoua swi towards more healt.

best looking.
The result is that the poblic have foods been edu-

Association points out that there are many vegetables the public simply doo't want to eat. "We tend to be awfully con-servative," he says. "For instance, wheo did you last huy a celeriac? And would you know what to do with a kohl rabi? Both are delicious British vegetables, but shoppers are creatures of habit and doo't want to try them."

David Sawday agrees: "We do offer information on some vegetables, on potatoes for example, where different varieties have a different purpose baking, chipping etc, but our research has shown our much information," be says. demand is growing.

Appearance still counts hut these days it has to good as well as look good," he

Tesco, in common with its competitors, is responding to this change by offering a much wider choice of organic foods. The company bas also taken a lead by "level-pegging" the prices of these foods in 120 of their stores with the prices of their conventional counter-

Britain is way behind its Europeao oeigbbours when it comes to organic foods. Here it makes up just 1 per compof the total market, whereas io countries like Austria it has customers doo't waot too risen to 10 per cent. But

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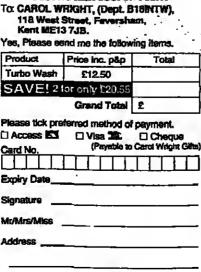
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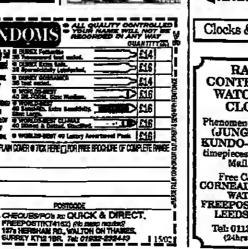
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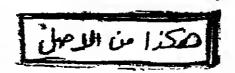
By Sheila

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SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 1997 THE INDEPENDENT LONG WEEKEND - SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 1997 Shopping LATE AVAILABILITY OFF important? By Sheila Prophet

just savour the pretivicolours

them before

Once it was accepted

that crops were sea-

sonal, but today we

expect vegetables to be available all year

round. The result is

leads to an even greater use of

pesticides. It can also cause

soil erosion and strip the land

Frankenstein foods - crops

such as corn and soya beans -

which have been genetically engineered to be resistant to

The producers insist they

point out: "No one knows for

sure the effect these oew life

forms will have oo our envi-

before eaten these ingredi-

ents in the human diet. How

"Because they use natural

of nutrients.

The future

ciation spokesman.



"Fresh organic fruit or vegetables produced profes-sionally under the same conditions as conventional prolitice will always taste better," says Peter Segger, man-aging director of Organic Farm Foods Ltd. The organic produce has been allowed to grow at its own pace rather than being forced with the use of chemical feeds. Organic carrots, for instance, will have

around three weeks longer in the soil than conventional ooes. This means they take up water at a slower rate and develop a higher fibre or carbon content, which is what gives them flavour. "On the other hand," he

admits. "a grotty old dried up organic vegetable sitting outside some wholefood shop is going to taste worse than a fresh conventional vegetable." Poor presentation is oow

becoming a thing of the past as companies like Organic Farm Foods - which supplies most of the top supermarkets up in the looks department.

"People are used to vegetables looking a certain way, so we have to compromise," says Segger. "Old-fashioned open-pollenated traditional varieties taste better than the new hybrids, but don't look as good. To achieve a balance we have had to mix

the two." So what are the main problems - and the solutions?

Pesticides

People aren't just choosing organic foods only for their taste but also for what they consider their safety. Organic is a term protected by EC law, which means the produce is free of chemicals such as pesticides and herbicides. 25,000 tons of these chemicals are used in this country every year, and the Soil Associatioo say more than half of -ensure their products match. them have been known to be harmful, causing illnesses

Organisations representi conventional growers insist that much of the industry no er uses these chemicals. and are instead moving towards more natural methods of pest control, such as traps to stop the pests reaching the vegetables, and protecting crops by covering them with agricultural fleece.

The Government claims that in 25 years, no one has reported any ill effects from the use of pesticides. However, its own figures have shown that a wide range of foods - including milk, fruit and vegetables - have been found to contain residues of these chemicals.

Since The Independent campaigned on this issue 18 months ago, the official advice is to take care. With carrots, for example, which have been shown to take up a high degree of pesticides, we are

do they know they are safe?"
Across Europe there is huge resistance to the importing of these foods from America - particularly soya, which is used in 60 per cent of our processed foods - and in Britain, supermarket chains are hining up either to ban them altogether, or to insist that foods using these ingredients are clearly

The good news, meanwhile, is that our organic options are growing fast. While supermarkets used to report that customers simply didn't want methods, organic farmers sim-ply can't push their systems as hard as this," says a Soil Assoorganic foods, Sainsbury's claimed last month that demand from customers is now so far ahead of supply that the company is trying to persuade its conventional sup-

The frightening news is the approach of so-called pliers to switch to organic. Meanwhile, Elgro, a company of 36 farmers to Lincolnshire, announced last week that it intends switching some of its land to organic weed killer and antibiotics use. Uoder Soil Association and even capable of killing rules, it takes at least two vears before land can be declared free of chemicals are safe, but as Greenpeace and food produced from it can be labelled organic. In the past, British farmers have been reluctant to make this rooment. We have oever switch because of the losses they suffer during conversion.

ing them to switch by doubling the funds available to compensate them for these lesses. and the Labour Party has promised to seek a "greatly expanded" programme of support from the EU.

Grow it yourself Whatever the pros and cons of buying vegetables, the tastiest option is still growing your own. Anyone with a bit of land can do it, says gardeoing broadcaster Pippa Green-

"If you've never done it before, first arm yourself with a good book - I recommend The Vegetable Garden Displayed, by Joy Larkcom - and a few seed catalogues," she advises. Then prepare your soil thoroughly before sowing. Ideally this would have begun a couple of months ago, but it isn't too late to start now, Clear it of perennial weeds, then mix in plenty of organic compost or well rotted manure - BSE has made some people wary of cow manure, but stable manure is perfectly

There are now seeds for all seasons, but the next few weeks is the time to sow early potatoes and carrots and what are called second early peas, all of which will be ready to eat lo summer. Kindersley (£16.99). However, the Government

Meanwhile cabhage can be grown outdoors from April. They do take up more space, but there is nothing to stop you just growing six cabbages if you want to," says Pippa. "As with all the vegetables. what variety you choose depends on what you want from it - whether you want a green leafy cabbage for instance, or one with a firm head which is ideal for making colesiaw. Studying the catalogue or seed packet will tell you all you oeed to

Make sure your growing vegetables have adequate moisture, and even the amateur gardener should be rewarded with a worthwhile crop in summer. Most commonly available seeds have been dressed to repel hirds or to boost their chances of success, and while Pippa says these dressings are fairly harmless, you may prefer to seek out the harder to find organic seeds.

The Henry Doubleday Research Association have a free enquiry pack, which you can obtoin by sending a large stomped addressed envelope to HDRA, Ryton on Dunsmore, Coventry CVB 3LG.

'The New Kitchen Gurden' by The Independent's Anna Paword is published by Dorling

refracting telescopes to be manufactured. "The Farringdon-Holborn area was the

Tulley would no doubt be astonished to

see the huge brass telescope that fills the

shop window, a model from 1860 that's

worth about £20,000. That's also the price

for the top-of-the-range modern comput-

erised telescopes, for sale to universities

excite people's interest," Lawrence says,

"then from a buying point of view the

choice is fairly straightforward. If you want

to get a telescope for tooking at the stars and planets then you will have to spend

about £250. There's a good choice at that

price level, but beyond that there's noth-

ing until you get to the £650-£700 price

range. Then you'll get something with an

electric drive which will allow you to do

photography, where of course stability is

all-important. Between those two price

levels there's nothing."

More difficult might be finding some-

where to buy, as the shop in Farringdon

Road is the only one of its type in Britain. "The nearest shop like ours," says Lawrence, "is in Paris, and there are two

more in Germany. There are some other

people in other parts of the country but they

are mostly working from home and mak-

ing telescopes to order rather than to self

direct to the beginner. David Hinds in Tring

distributes and makes telescopes, and

there's Beacon Hill Telescopes in Hum-

berside, but they only make stuff to order.

The best advice I can give people outside

London - if they don't want to ring us up

or use the mail-order service - is to gu to

their nexrest bird-watching specialist and

And if you have £20,000 to spare, the

brass model in the window is for sale, but

only when they find a replacement. "That's

about the fourth one we've had. People

from Disney are interested in it. We sold

the last one to the Sultan of Oman."

get a good pair of binoculars.

"If something like Hale-Bopp does

and well-to-do amateur astrooumers.

was based on this site.

Ad Watch Full of beans

atebkey kids and single parent families are lar fram typical fodder used by British advertisers to sell their wares. The traditional approach plays on our aspirations - peddling dreams rather than the harsh realities of Nineties life. Which is exactly why Heinz chose to break the mould in its latest TV campaign which broke

In one commercial, we see kids teturning home after school and starting to make their own tea before their mother's return, in another ao exhausted lurry driver coming home late, whose only glimpse of his kids is when they're in hed, asleep

Central to each is one of Heinz' staple products – tinned soup, tomato ketchup and spaghetti. The aim." "To support Hemz position at the heart of a safe and secure family life," explains Andy Bryant, board account director at Heinz advertising agency Bates Dorland. 'We waoted contemporary Ninetics family situations rather than fantasy or mostalun. It is an attempt to make Heinz feel up to date, whilst still retaining its traditional

core values for being con-stant and comforting."

Gone are threet references concerning the product that Heinz "means" naire tomato, greater thickness, hetter taxte. And in an added twist, the music chosen to accompany each commercial is the Zulu rhythms of African band Ladysmith Black Mambazu. The contrast is stark. "It distances the campaign from the predictable associations of Western music, Bryant explains, "It creates a fresh. contemporary impression of Helnz and underscores the warm, human emotions of the cummercials,"

The effect is undoubtedly reassuring, although the strategy is not risk-free.



Advertising traditionally lays itself open to criticism when dabbling in "real" issues and social conceros. One recent advertisement for McDonalds, for example, prompted a flurry of complaints after showing a young boy stagemanaging a "chance" meeting between his estranged

pareots. Heinz spokesman Sieve Marinker doubts the company's latest efforts could cause anyone offence. "People are becoming much more advertising literate and far more cynical about what they see. It's miriguing that, in 1997, there are still many adwhich contain a saccharine view of British life - sun pouring through the window onto the breakfast table, blonde blue-eyed kid, rugged dad." This is where the real danger lies, he claims. "We are simply trying to be up to date and relevant to our consumers."

The company's strategy to date certainly seems to be having this effect. Despite press reports three years ago that Heinz would begin to favour direct marketing - better known to many as "junk mail", the company has continued to spend money on TV and press advertising to communicate key products, A wider range of personalised direct marketing activities have been designed to streogthen the company's relationship with the con-

Wheo a price cutting war recently hit the haked beans business, sales of Heinz Baked Beans remained unalfeered - the company claims - even in the face of retailers selling own-brands for 2p a tin. Today, Heinz enjoys a 53 per cent share of baked beans sales, 57 per cent share for ketchup and 59 per cent share of the tinned samp business, Expect Heinz tu play on the emotions for quite some years to come.

Meg Carter

TURKEY A closer encounter of the third kind

For an eye on the sky, as Comet Hale-Bopp fast approaches, binoculars are your best bet, writes Mike Gerrard



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what they want." He could have added that people are fascinated by them, too, as the interest in the latest comet to come our way shows. Comet Hale-Bopp is visible already, and will be at its brightest in the northern hemisphere in late March and early April when it's a mere 120 million miles from Earth. As this is the closest it gets during its orbit of some 3,000 years, is it the time to rush out and buy a telescope?
"Absolutely not," says David Lawrence, the Technical Manager of Broadhurst,

Clarkson and Fuller Ltd in London's Farringdon Road, which has been selling telescopes since 1785. "Most people think that because it's a comet you must buy a telescope to get a good look, and they go into Argos or Dixon's and buy the cheapest they can get. In fact it's very rare to use a normai telescope to look at a comet like Hale-Bopp, because a comet is quite a large item in the sky. A telescope will show you just a very small part of it. You might see the fuzzy nucleus but you would miss the tail."

Lawrence's advice is to buy a good pair of binoculars instead, which, after all, are merely two small telescopes that can be focused simultaneously. He recommends the Russian-made Helios brand, starting at about £50, "You want a pair that's about 7x50 or 10x50 at the most. They're also dual-purpose in that you could use them for bird-watching or take them on holiday."

The first figure represents the magnification power of the lens, and the second the size in millimetres of the objective lens - the big end. If you choose a magnification power big-ger than about 10, the binoculars become too heavy to hold steady without a tripod. The wider the objective lens, the wider the field of view and the better the image, as more light is available. However, there is obviously a practical limit on how big a view you can see, and how many times you can magnify it, before you end up with binoculars the size of two milk boutles. Compact binoculars often have an objective lens that's only 20-25mm across, making them light to carry but lim-

ited oo the detail you'll get. "The oext price level up from the £50 Helios ones," says Lawrence, "is about £100. At that level we'd recommend names like Halina and Pentax, or a range we stock called Viking. To be honest, there are very few manufacturers and binoculars from the same factories just go out under different brand names. You have to virtually double the price each time to get a noticeable increase in quality, so the next level up is about £200. A pair for £140 is not that much better than a pair for £100, but if you're prepared to spend £200 then you will see an improvement. The best advice you can give



Talling the comet: Hale Bopp is best seen with double vision

is for people to choose whether they want to spend £50, £100 or £200, and then just find a pair they like. But for a beginner, spend £50 on Helios and you'll get a per-fectly good pair of binoculars."

When a salesman tells you not to spend money, you feel like you must be looking at the world through the wrong end of a pair of binoculars, but his advice is echoed by Ken Sheklon, who edits the newsletter of the Federation of Astronomical Societies. "Mose people are put off astronomy by getting a cheap telescope. Unless it's a good make you won't see things clearly, they won't be sharp and you'll be disappointed. Get a decent pair of binoculars to get a good look at Hale-Bopp. My own are an old pair made by the East German Zeiss company, which cost about £100 and are quite brilliant."

In good weather conditions Hale-Bopp is already visible to the oaked eye, as Ken Sheldon confirms. "I saw it only yesterday morning. I got up at 5am and the sky was nice and clear so it was easy to see with the naked eye, at about 15-20 degrees up from the horizon. It's as bright as any star but it doesn't have a huge tail, though even with the naked eye you can see that it is quite clearly not a star. I had another look three or four days ago when it was a little bit misty and then I did need binoculars. But if it does materialise io the way that it promises then it could develop into

something quite spectacular."

The federatioo has about 3,800 mem-

from people looking for their nearest group. When the BBC broadcast a radio series about astronomy a few years ago, 300 letters arrived in the first month.

David Lawrence confirms the upsurge in interest when a comet like Hale-Bopp grabs the attention. "When something like this makes the national oewspapers we notice the additional customers. If there's an item on the TV news, you can guarantee we'll be much busier the next day."

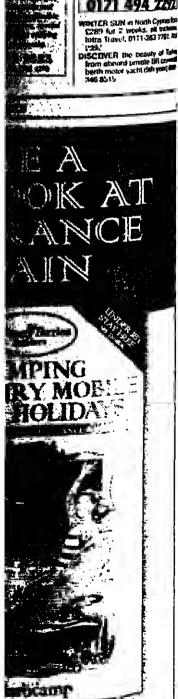
Broadhurst Clarkson and Fuller has been selling telescopes since they began to become widely available in the late 18th century. Their invention is generally credited to a Dutch optician, Hans Lippershey, in bers, and interest in astronomy is such that Ken's wife Chris, who is the secretary, receives two to three inquiries every day

1608, and opticians continued to play a big and Manchester to view Hale-Bopp from 77,000ft on 29 March at a cost of £125 object glass in 1757, which enabled better (01252 793250 or 0161-832 7972).

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDRE W BUURMAN

Broadhurst, Clarkson and Fuller, 63 Farringdon Road, London ECI (0171-405 2156). The Federation of Astronomical Societies, Whitehaven, Maytree Road, Lower Moor, Pershore, Wores WRIO 2NY, British Astronomical Society (0171-734 4145). David Hinds, distributor and manufacturer (01442 827768). Beacon Hill Telescopes, manufacturers (01472-692959).

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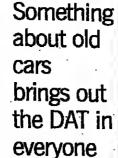
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Great value and parteet

The other day a photographer friend gave me a lift in a marvellous old car. a Y-reg Citroen CX. It cost him £700 and was in good condition, having been garaged all its life. As with all CXs, it rode with an insouriant gracefulness and suppleness, moving with the charm of a grand old dame rather than the inelegant loiter of a Doc Martens-shod teenager. (Too many modern cars have kickyour-hutt suspensions, the upshot of tyres that are too big, to make the car look aggressive.)

After the experience in my friend's CX, I decided to play DAT (Dreaming with Auto Trader), one of the car enthusiase's favourite games. It requires merely a sense of





imagination, a copy of a buyer's guide and a wet weekend when contestants have maximum spare time. Like most DAT contestants, I concentrated on what the trade likes to call prestige marques". Also the bigger the better, because bigger cars tend to give better service in their dotage. Besides, hig cars depreciate

faster, so represent better used value.
Old Mercs and Volvos last better than any other hig prestige cars but unfortunately everybody else knows this, so their used prices are higher. Mind you, there were some hargains about in last week's game. How about a 1983 Mercedes 380SE for £2,950? (The last S-class was quite the loveliest Mercedes post-war saloon and prohably the best made.) There were loads of good big Volvos for £2,500 to £3,000 but, deep down, I know I'd rather have a Merc.

Or a Jag. Jags have lousy residual values because they have lonsy reputations for reliability. Last week's Auto Trader listed many of the last generation XI40 series, one of the least reliable and thus fastestdepreciating of all Jaguar saloons, for less than £4,000. There was an 1988 Sovereign for £3,995, another E-reg Sovereign for only £34,95 (OK it had only the anaemic 2.9

engine, but for this sort of money who cares if it is outdragged by mopeds from the lights?) and a 1987 2.9 XI6 for only £2,995. Rolls-Royces also drop in value as fast as pebbles in a stream, and the old Silver

Shadow is far more elegant than the latest boxy Silver Dawn. A 1978 Shadow II for £6,950 seemed the pick of the bunch but there were many other Shadows for under £10,000. That's less than 10 per cent of what you'd pay for a new Roller and with all the essential charms of Rolls-Royce motoring intact.

There weren't so many CXs last week but there were loads of big cheap Renaults, BMWs and Alfas. I love old Alfas because they look so great and they're fun to drive but I'd never buy one as main transport.Old Alfas are quite the worst made west
European cars of all. Sometimes, even when
playing the DAT game, common sense has to make a stand.

minimalist, raw, noisy car. The

Boxster still has a subversive

streak - it's fast, low and noisy;

too - but today's Porsche cus-tomers want their comforts.

The seats are electrically con-

trolled, there's central locking,

power windows and an electri-

automatic gearbox, in the form

of Porsche's novel Tiptronic S,

which enables you to choose

between full automatic mode

or DIY gearchanging courtesy

of Formula One-type steering wheel huttons. It is such a

good transmission that you

sacrifice little in performance

or fun compared with standard

notwithstanding, you sacrifice

with £50,000-plus Ferraris, that there's little point in spending

any more. The Boaster is a rebel

with a cause - to rewrite the

sports car rulebook. After the

Boxster, there's just no point in

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Then again, low-rent cabin

five-speed manuals.

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A solution to the burning question

A new engine boasts the best of petrol and diesel. John Simister tries it out

ave you noticed how diesels have gone out of fashion? Not so iong ago, driving a diesel was touted as a highly constructive way of saving both your pocket and the planet, because diesels ingest little fuel and excrete little in the way of greenhouse gases. Modern diesels are quite quiet, too, and give a decent turn of

Yet people have become increasingly aware that driving behind another diesel car is not pleasant, especially if you're feeling a hit chesty. Frankly, they smell, and even the cleanest of today's hi-tech diesels can be caught puffing out a big black cloud when asked to work hard. Research into whether or not diesel fumes constitute a health risk continues apace. Meanwhile, people are going right off the idea and slipping back into thirstier hut faster and much less odorous petrol cars.

But what if we could combine the benefits of a diesel with the performance of a petrol engine? We'll soon be able to do exactly that if claims for the next hig engine breakthrough prove correct. In Japan, Mitsuhishi has just launched its GDI (Gasoline Direct Injection) engine in an all-new Galant, promising near-diesel economy with petrol-engine performance in terms of smoothness, quietness and

ultimate pace. Here's how it works. In a normal petrol engine, the petrol and the air bave to be mixed in just the right proportions before they are sucked into the engine's cylinders, otherwise the mixture won't burn properly. Too little fuel, and the engine will splutter and however, the fuel is injected into the cylinder itself, just when the air already sucked in is being compressed to

its maximum. It's the heat generated by this compression that ignites the fuel, the expanding gases then forcing the piston down and making the engine go. The fuel starts to burn before it's fully dispersed among the compressed air. so it doesn't matter that there's more air than is

chemically "correct". So how would it be if petrol could be squirted directly into a cylinder, diesel-fashion, just at the

microsecond it's needed? That's what happens in the Mitsubishi engine, thanks to advances in electronics that have made control of timing and quantity precise enough to match a higher-revving petrol engine's needs. As in a diesel, there's an excess of air, but clever shaping of the channel through which the incoming air enters the cylinder, and of the top of the piston, causes that air to swirl in such a way as to guide the squirt of petrol towards the spark plug. The plug ignites the petrol and gets the hurning under way before the mixture is too dispersed.

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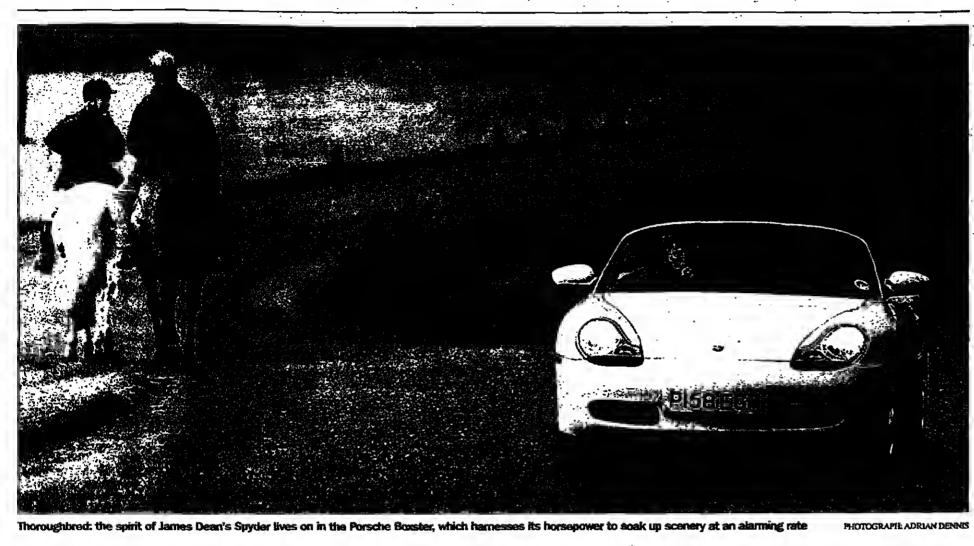
Residents Sun

Running like this, the new engine is very economical indeed: a true "lean-burn" motor. If its driver demands more power, though, perhaps for accelerating harder or cruising at high speed, the fuel is instead injected with the incoming air, and in greater quantity, to mimic what happens in a standard petrol engine. Even then, Mitsuhishi's engine is still highly efficient thanks to that swirling and a high

compression ratio. Theory is one thing, practice quite another, and your sceptical correspondent expected there to be a definite "step" between the two modes of operation. Also, given the lifeless feel of simpler, lead burn engines to date (Honda Civic VTEC-E. Toyota Carina E), I would not have been surprised if the GDI engine felt as flat as a pancake. Not so: not only does this 1.8 litre engine feel entirely normal all the time, it's also

encouragingly muscular and entirely smooth. The new Galant that I tested, a Rover 600-sized car, comes to the UK soon new engine. That's because there's still some emissions work to do on matching it to European driving conditions with their higher sustained speeds. However, both the Mitsubishi Carisma and the Volvo S40, which are built in the same Dutch factory, will get the new engine by the

end of the year. The future, looks likely to lie with Gasoline Direct Injection, so it's hardly surprising that Mitsubishi has taken out 180 patents. Toyota is poised to launch its own version, and others are sure to follow. What price a smelly diesel now?



Roadtest: Porsche Boxster By Gavin Green Rebel With a Cause

he worst thing about the Porsche Boxster is that there was a better one a few years ago. At the 1993 Detroit Show, Porsche showed a delightful concept car, that looked like today's machine but was studded with jewel-like details, not cabin complete with instruments which would do justice to any upmarket watch face.

Alas, the production Boxster, just on sale in the UK, has a very dull cahin that is made out of the grimmest plastics Porsche could find.There are no elegant little fripperies. which pepper the rival Mer-cedes SLK's cahin. Even the switches look and feel rather naff, and are sited with all the ergunomic planning of shot fired from a hlunderbuss. Mind you, after a few miles

Porsche Boxster: £33,950. Flatsix cylinder engine, 204bhp at 6000rpm, two-seater, midengined convertible sports car. Top speed 149mph, 0-60mph in 6.8 seconds, average fuel consumption 27mpg. Rivals

Cheaper, more beautiful, better made and just as fast. But the SLK is not as sporty as the Porsche and its supercharged

in the Boxster, you probably won't care too much. The little Porsche is such a hoot to drive and so stunning to look at that the cheapskate cabin is soon dismissed. Instead, you'll savour the bellow of the gutsy flat-six engine, a foot or so behind your

ears, and the marvellous agility. Like all the best sports cars, the Boxster feels alive, hyper-

four-cylinder engine sounds flat. Automatic transmission only in Britain. BMW 23 2.8: About £26,500.

Another highly desirable new German convertible, but looks a bit toy-like and not as stimulating to drive as the Boxster. ful, hrutish, fast and noisy. But can't compete with the Germans for refinement, comfort, reliability or build quality.

active, eager. And like all other pricier Porsche models, it feels solid and meaty when you drive it hard. The steering is heavy, even though it's power assisted, and the little shortthrow gearchange and pedals have firm, precise actions, too.

Boxster has a mid-mounted engine, is a full convertible, and is very much more distinctive both to look at and to drive. It's an attempt by Porsche to go back to its roots and to cast off any criticism of making cars The Boxster replaces the old 968 model as Porsche's entrythat look like Japanese coupés, level machine. It costs just but cost twice as much.

£33,950, and that's cheap for a The Boxster harks back to Porsche. Unlike the old 968, the the Fifties and to delightful Porsches such as the 550 Spy-

der. The Boxster's mid-engine layout, open top, lowness, long nose, headlamp and taillight shapes are reminiscent of the famous James Dean sports car, as is the hig central rear so little with this car, compared exhaust pipe.
The old Spyder was a very

motoring

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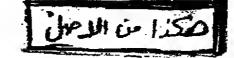
last year?





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Lispersed mming like this, the engine is very iomical indeed; a true a-burn" motor. If its r demands more er, though, perhaps eccelerating harder or ung at high speed, the is instead injected the incoming air, and realer quantity, to ic what happens in a dard petrol engine. a then, Mitsubishi's no is still highly ient thanks to that ling and a high pression ratio.

beory is one thing. tice quite another, and 'aceptical espondent expected e to be a definite "step" reca the two modes of ration. Also, given the ous feel of simpler, leading ada Civic VTEC-E. ota Carina E), I would have been surprised if GDI engine felt as flat pancake. Not so: not does this 1.8 litre defect entirely normal liftime, it's also

ontirely smooth. he new Cintage that I ed, a Rover 600-sized corners to the UK sooo not, at first, with the engine. That's because e's still some emissions k to do on matching it uropean driving ditions with their higher sinod speeds. However, The Mitsubishi sma and the Volvo , which are built in the c Dutch factory, will the new engine by the

be future, looks likely e with Gasoline Direct ction, so it's hardly wising that Mitsubishi taken out 180 patents. ota is poised to launch wen version, and others sure to follow. What e a smelly diesel num?

of the year.



168

G PPP

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The Causeway Cottage Tea Rooms is in Finchingfield, north Essex, which was home to the late Dodie Smith, author of 101 Dalmatians. It's a picture-book English village, with ducks old church and cottage gar-dens. The Grade II-listed Tea Rooms, overlooking

Thee of the best

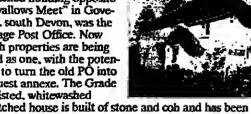
Local landmarks

the village pond and green, has traded for 40 years and is a magnet for touring cyclists in summer. Not surprising, as the tea rooms serves morning coffee and afternoon tea with home-made cakes and sandwiches. The owner's quarters include two bedrooms with potential for a third small one. For sale as a going concern through Trembach Welch (01371 872117) for £150,000.

Number 3-5 The Square in East Morton, in the Aire Valley, two miles from Bingley in West Yorkshire, curreptly operates as the village fish-and-chip shop in one half of the 17th-century huilding, and Jacques Cottage Antiques in the other. However, there is

outline planning permission for conversion to either two character homes, or one large house (though what would the village do without its cod and chips?). Grade II listed, it stands at the head of the village square. Delightful country walks are promised and access to Wharfedale. £80,000 through Simon Thornton (01943 816213).

Until recently, the tiny thatched huilding opposite "Swallows Meet" in Goveton, south Devon, was the village Post Office. Now both properties are being sold as one, with the potential to turn the old PO into a guest annexe. The Grade II-listed, whitewashed



thatched house is built of stone and coh and has been extensively renovated; the sitting room has a flagstone floor, painted beams and wood-burning stove. £185,000 through Marchand Petit (01548 857588).

Rosalind Russell

homes & money

Take cover before the blitz

Who will pay your mortgage if you can't? Nic Cicutti offers advice

Others may lose their jobs, have accidents or be forced out of work through illness, but not you. Until it happens, of course.

When it does, you begin to wonder how you will be able to maintain your mortgage payments, pay other house-hold bills and keep a roof over your head.

Despite this week's 68,000 fall in the number of those out of work, hundreds of thousands of people still join the dole queue each year, even if for a short while.

Andrew Walhank, an archi-

tect, is one of them. Unlike many, however, after losing his job recently he is waiting to hear from Skipton Building Society whether mortgage pay-ments of £200 a month for his home in Ilkley, North York-shire, will be met by a special insurance policy he has.

If the payments are met, it will be the second time in just over two years that Mr Walbank has used of his policy. In 1995, he was also made redundant. Then, the Skipton policy paid his home loan for

Mr Walbank, who has experience in many areas of architecture, says: "I decided when I bought this place in 1990 that I wanted some protection. This relieves you of the pressure and responsibility of worrying about what happens when you are out of work.

t never happens to you. reaching record levels earlier this decade, accident, sickoess and unemployment insurance, so-called ASU cover, was until recently taken out by barely 25 per cect of

mortgage borrowers.

A large part of the reason was that up to two years ago, borrowers knew that mortgage interest benefits from the tate would be paid if their lost their jobs. In fact, all it took was a two-month wait plus four more when half the interest was paid.

Another reason was the high cost. For people to be vered cost about £7 per £100 of monthly mortgage payments. Cover for a typical £50,000 lozo might cost £25 a

But since October 1995. new horrowers must wait nice. months before income support will meet their mortgage ayments.

Today, a Halifax spokeswoman says: "We have seen an increase in the number of people taking out the cover, up to one third of new borrowers since the rules were

"We doo't want to forcefeed people. All we cao do is point out that it is there and that it can be useful. But there is a fine line involved." One major factor in making

such policies more popular has been the reduction in the cost of cover. Halifax's cover now costs £4.98 per £100 of Despite the jobless total monthly mortgage paymeots.

As with many policies, cover kicks in after a person has been out of work for 30 days although 180 days must elapse from the time the policies first started before a person is eligible for benefits. However, sickness or acci-dents ensure immediate payment, which last for up to 12

months. Skipton Building Society believes in the product so much that it offers free unemployment cover to all its new horrowers and charges about £4 per £100 to extend the policy.

Gerry Duprec, an independent financial adviser in Gloucester whose company. Gerry Dupree & Co. specialises in mortgage advice. says he makes a point of recommending the cover to all his clients.

The way we work is that we do not sell the same policy to all our clients," Mr Dupree says. They all have different needs and requirements. Some will just need redundancy cover, because they have adequate sickness provision in their contracts. By making it cheaper, we make it more attractive." His company belongs to Mortgage Intelligence, a network of 400 home loans specialists,

who can negotiate special deals on their clients' behalf. Philip Watson, a director at John Charcol, the UK's largest mortgage broker, also helieves strongly in the prod-

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uct: "There is a tendency to for accidents and sickness."



Andrew Walbank twice relied on mortgage insurance PROTOGRAPH TRESMITTED 2010

assume that if you lose your job the state will step in. In fact. 80 per cent of people do

not qualify for benefits. Also, people forget that this kind of cover is not just about unemployment, About 60 per cent of our claims are

John Charcol too uses a number of different insurance companies to meet its clients' needs: "We need to be able to ensure that you get what's right, whether a person is a steeplejack or an office

worker. Mr Walbank isn't either of

those. Hut he says: "I cannot speak too highly of this insurance. Even when I find work again, I shall still continue my payments towards it."

PEPS

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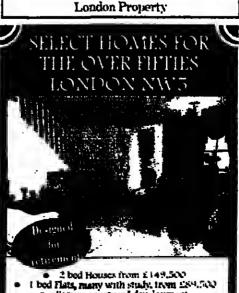
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Outwardly mobile

Where are the pioneers in the London space race buying? By Penny Jackson

n all parts of London, families are given. Tooting Common would cost ing up fashionable postcodes for a £600,000 to £700,000 two miles away. large house and even larger savings. At the hack of their minds, though, there is always the niggle that during the recession prices in these outlying areas fell fastest and hardest. Even though recovery in some pockets of east and south London is still slow, places with a good stock of solid family houses are seeing rapid growth. Yolande Barnes of Savills Research likens the market to a riving tide; when it retreats it will not go bac. to the same point and new areas become

In the Eighties, Battersea was swept into a new price bracket and it is from this area people are now pushing south in search of more space for their money. he looking towards Lewisham and New Cross, with its beautiful squares near Goldsmith's College and, further in, Paddington and Camherwell.

Winkworth, the London estate agents, has noticed an acceleration of the filter effect, which is a common feature of a rising, low volume market. As huyers move into secondary residential areas, prices are pushed up, creating an exo-dus of purchasers into neighbouring value-for-money locations.

In west London, this trail may start in Kensington via Norting Hill to Shepherd's Bush where £300,000 would huy a good-sized family house; while those priced out of Hammersmith and Chiswick have discovered a few pockets of Acton with large homes at reasonable

increase in prices in Battersea, in some who sees Greenwich offering a better cases 30 per cent over the past four quality of environment than the ever-Wandsworth and Clapham towards Balham, Streatham and Tooting. A £400,000 which could change the nature of an area. house in the best roads in Streatham and Good houses need pioneers."

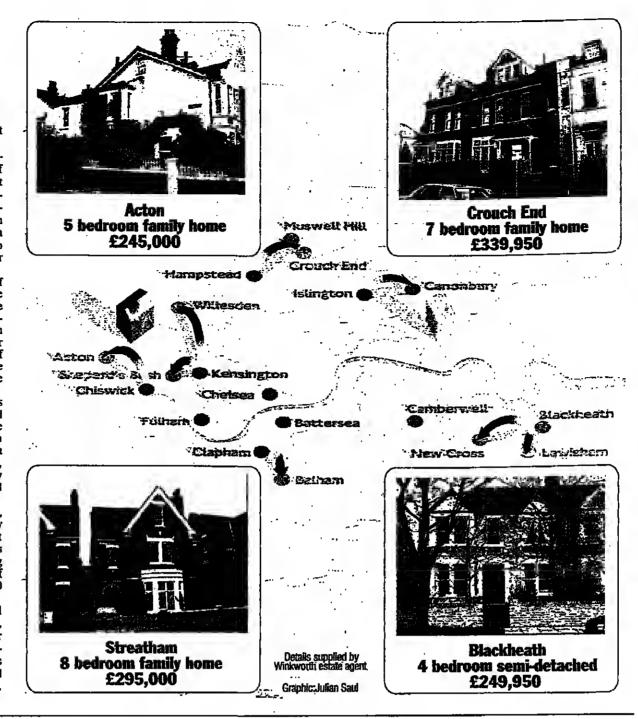
Yet precisely where you huy is important, says Simon Agace, chairman of Winkworth. The right ingredients must be there: community, architecture, trans-port and education. "Even if you overhid and huy into next year's appreciation area you are modestly safe but not in a tertiary area. In a boom market the gap narrows hetween the good and poor areas, in a recession it widens.'

De Beauvoir, on the borders of Canonhury and Dalston, has the required architecture to raise it above some of its struggling east London neigh-Islington and Highhury are finding their money goes much further. Instead of paying around half a million for a targe Victorian house, they are not likely to be stretched beyond £320,000 here.

In the leafier, outlying areas, places such as Dulwich and Muswell Hill, solid and traditional residential spots, are newly fashionable. Some half-a-million pounds is a good starting point for a large family house close to Hampstead, whereas a few miles out in increasingly popular Crouch End, that figure would he reduced to about half,

In the leafy south-east, Blackheath, with its open spaces and genuine villagey feel, is seeing price rises of 3 to 4 per cent a month. The spill-over of buyers has narrowed the gap between the adjoining the village. A house valued at £190,000 last year is now selling at £255,000.

The Greenwich peninsula is an area full In south London, the enormous of potential, according to Yolande Barnes, months, is pushing huyers out of popular Fulham. "You can pay three times more for safety, or ideally start a trend



Mortar, mortar everywhere

... but just try buying somewhere to live in central London. Mary Dejevsky did - and failed

especially wrong time. Even with cash in hand, nothing to sell, and Perhaps it is worse. Last time, supposedly rising market, is posed to be. the most pressing desire to huy - there was a temporary and quite another matter. After a long not to make money, hut to have specific reason for the frenzy: the weekend of concentrated flat somewhere to live - you attract new restrictions on mortgage more sympathy than enthusiasm from the capital's estate agents.

Either (in the case of W1, WC1, SWI) there is nothing on their books hecause no one is selling: "We didn't even bother to compile a list for January," they say, "there's nothing coming in." Or (W8, SW3, SW5) everyone is run off their feet showing flats around one in the office because they're all out with clients.

Any half-hahitable flat is said to be "flying out of the window" even hefore anyone has had time understandably prefer the boom to type out the details. "We're just so busy, tr's wonderful for us," confided one receptionist against a cacophony of ringing phones. It's not so wonderful for us.

On the surface. London seems

one well into gazumping mode. interest tax relief. The hubble soon burst.

This time, the common wisdom is that we are experiencing the higgest boom since the late Seventies. Interestingly, a dissenting voice comes from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors whose spokeswoman gives a number of reasons why an the clock. If you ring, there is no enduring boom is unlikely: the cautious hudget, the election, a probable reduction in MIRAS and no change in stamp duty.

Estate agents and vendors theory, which helps to explain our problems as huyers. Why should anyone sell their flat when they can expect another 15 per cent for it next year? And if they do

viewing in central London, I was left with the suspicion that the current "boom" may be artificially fuelled by some estate agents and vendors and that it is not a

real reflection of the market. The agents concerned will object that the market drives itself, that any flat is worth just as much or as little as someone is prepared to pay for it, and that there is a real shortage of properties. All that is true. But it takes a genuine hidding situation and genuine information to judge what is a fair price, and not the fehrile imagin-

ings of the sale-hungry. Taken to see a couple of flats last week that were still being renovated and not yet on the market, we were told that if we wanted to make an offer, "think of a numsell, why should they settle for ber, the price hasn't been set yet". up), then taken to the other flat.

t never seems the right time to to be hack in the vicious circle of anything less than a price that when to huy a flat in central 1988; too little to huy, too many anticipates that rise? Whether take part in an auction with no London, but now seems an people chasing after it and every-people are prepared to buy at any reserve and no guide price. That's price, just to have a stake in the how hot the competition is sun-

At another flat, also being renhave an asking price (though no printed details), we were told: "We've already had an offer at the asking price, but we haven't accepted it." The renovator (and owner) muttered in the background that he thought the asking price too high.

Some agents are shamelessly encouraging gazumping. I was taken to see two flats in one block. One, at what seemed a very reasonable price, was under offer. The other, which seemed overpriced by comparison, was not. To the agent's horror, a family was waiting in the lobby (the family, it transpired, that thought it had bought the first flat). I was whisked past, rushed to the flat in question, raced around it (to be gone before the family arrived to measure

might be the usefulness of comparing the size and price of the two flats. But the subsequent invitation to hid for the first flat, huyer, who wanted several flats in the block, would either increase his offer or switch to the more

expensive flat - to the mutual

benefit of agent and vendor. The saga has a sequel. We made an offer for the larger flat, which was rejected. Spun tales of spiralling prices, vicious hidding for other flats in the area (but not for this one), we upped the offer. A misdirected fax subsequently made clear that, first, this was 10 per cent more than any similar flat in the block had ever fetched and, second, that the price had recently been de facto increased by the removal from the package of several spaces (hitherto included in the same price).

We withdrew; the vendor, a

A justification for this comedy company, is prepared to wait. But the experience prompts some

Perhaps the statutory duty on conversation contained a strong estate agents to provide accurate particulars should be augmented Maybe the agent thought that the a flat was put on the market, at what price and on what terms. Ideally, the prices achieved at sale should he published, as they are in some countries. Then we huyers could judge the market for ourselves and not find ourselves unwittingly driving it.

And, contrary to what you may hear, there are central London flats on the market. Some of them have been there for a good many months now, unsold because of their poor condition, their high service charge or their less than ideal location. They are available hecause sellers and agents will not reduce the price. anticipating that the market will "rise to meet them". Maybe it will, but the fact that huyers are resisting shows that we still have a modicum of common sense.

Beyond the city limits

he London commuter strays a fair distance these days. Although the traditional stockbroker belt will always be prime territory for anyone who has to be at their desk sharoish, five days a week, flexible working, technology and improved transport links have allowed many people to go further afield.

agents Savills, has noticed that the received wisdom of a one-and-a-halfhour, door-to door cut-off point has polarised; some commuters want to be at work within 45 minutes, others are prepared to travel for up to two hours. The three-day office week, with increasing numbers of people working partly from home, has made the long commute acceptable. "We find that if both partners work, the choice is to stay closer in. A couple will often move further out when the woman, say, decides to work

part-time or from home." she says. Clearly, improved rail and road links have opened up new areas. Only now is the effect of the electrification of the eastern line from King's Cross to Peterborough, a 45-minute trip, being felt. Rutland and Norfolk, very much second-home territory, are now becoming thinkable for regular commuters.

"Car travel is dead time, but people can get through a lot of work on the train. Regular commuters learn the tricks of the trade. They know where to stand on the platform to get a seat and how to stagger their journeys," says Alison Dean. Jim Ward, an analyst at Savills, lives in Camhridge and works in London, "We live in the heart of the city so I can cycle to the station. I spend an hour on the train and that is very useful time for reading and planning. Quite a few people use laptops. In that sense it is better to be an hour away than have a journey of half an hour while you are squashed into a carriage unable to do anything." It costs him just over £3,000 a year in fares hui, he says, is worth it for the quality of life Cambridge affords.

The equation of moving out of London and saving money does not always add up. There is a premium to pay for homes in pretty Hampshire towns that have a fast rail service and the Surrey commuter belt is more expensive than many parts of London. But the northern London commuter belt is cheaper than Surrey, In Empingham, 19 miles from Peterborough. Savills is selling a Georgian school house for £185,000, which would be closer to £300,000 in Surrey. And a 17th-century house in the village of Wilby, two miles from Wellingborough, with a 50-minute run into St Pancras, has a guide price of £565,000. £700,000 and £800,000. Winchester, which 10 years ago was regarded as an outpost of commuter land, is a 55minute journey to Waterloo, Mary-Anne Crafter, PR manager for Hamptons International, is a regular passenger. Working on the train is the equivalent of three hours in the office. I can focus and am uninterrupted. It does get stressful if the trains are mucked about. I can only do it because my husband works locally and I have a hrilliant nanny."

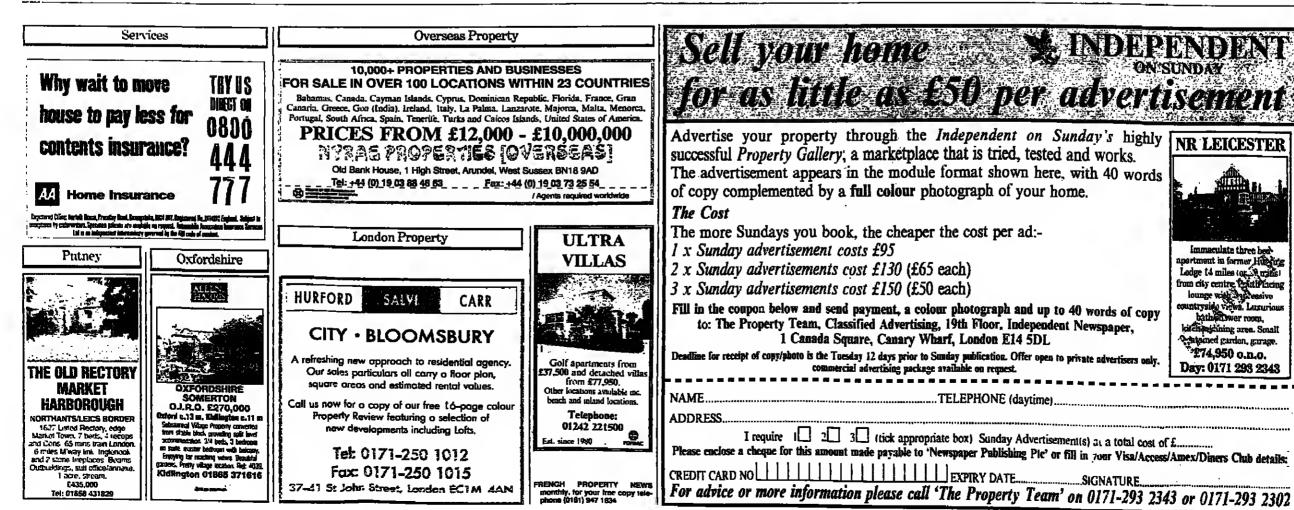
Try Homes' development and refurhishment of Peninsula Barracks, in the centre of Winchester, has seen a number of young professional huyers. At the beginning of March, five homes in the last side of the square will be ready. The race is on between the empty-nesters and those with their eyes on the nonstop link to Waterloo.

Penny Jackson

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Alison Dean, a director of estate

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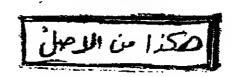
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THE INDEPENDENT LONG WEEKEND • SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 1997

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CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE

took its first pass at analysing how well pension funds had done

> which were "actively managed" had come out oo top again in the performance stakes.

The early relurns suggested that while the FT All-share iodex last year produced a total return of 16.8 per cent, the average actively managed pension fund had achieved a return of 17.2 per ceot, a small but aigoificant

advantage.

If confirmed, it would have meant that professional fund managers collectively had beateo the main stock market index for only the third time in the last 10 years.

or a momeot – just ooe hrief, tantalising momeot – it looked as there was going to be a large shock in the investment stakes this year. Wheo the WM Company, which monitors fund managers, response to the way to be a large shock in the investment stakes this year. Wheo the WM Company, which monitors fund managers, response to the state of the tors fund managers' performance, took its first pass at analysing professionals' with their investments in 1996, it found what looked like startling It seemed that those funds Most years

> esteem, the first cut proved to be a false signal. A month on, there has been time to collect and analyse the performance data further, and now the figures have had to be revised. WM, which monitors results from 80 per cent of the peosion funds in this cocotry, oow calculates that the outcome last year was a dead heat. The pension fuods in its aurvey produced a return of 16.8 per cent exactly the same as the index

itself had produced. In historical terms, this was still



Jonathan Davis

since professional fund managers started to analyse their performance io detail (which was not all that long ago), the message has almost invariably heen the same. In any one year, the majority of professional fund managers are mcapable of beating the main stock market indices.

And if that were oot bad enough, the chances of any fund manager beating the index repeatedly over a period of years are much slimmer still.

The evideoce on this point, as

hefore, is quite incootrovertible. Every study that has been carried out into fund management performance, whether it is in the United States or here, and whether it is pensioo funds, unit trusts, investment trusts or whatever, arrives at roughly the same cooclusion. This is that around 80 per ceot of professionally managed fuods will underperform the market as a whole each year.

WM's own data shows that 1992 was the only year io the last 10 wheo pensioo funds actually made a return greater than that of the index (though in 1994, they did manage to produce a smaller oegative return than the index).

If you look at studies of individual fund management performance over time, the evidence is similarly clear-cut. Fuod managers who appear in the top 25 per cent of performers in any five or 10-year period are more likely than not to be in the bottom half in the succeeding five or 10-year period, In fact, there is some evi-

picking the worst performing fund management group is just as likely to prodoce above average performance in the future.

Credit for the first discovery of this painful truth about the fund management business is probably owed to a distinguished American philaothropist, Alfred Cowles, who demonstrated as long ago as 1933 that the returns achieved by insuraoce companies were no better or no worse than those which would have been generated by a randomly selected portfolio of stocks. But it has taken the advent of modern computers to demonstrate conclusively quite how persistent and relentless this

phecomenco is. When you think about it, of course, this finding is really oot as surprising as it may seem. Fund managers collectively are the market, so it is inevitable that collectively they ahould he unable to heat the market index. The main reason they persistently fail even to match it, however, lies in the But alas, for the industry's self- quite an achievement. For ever I have had cause to meotion here dence to support the view that cost of their doing husiness -

one hand and all the money they put into the pockets of stockhrokers when they buy and sell the

shares in their portfolio. While the average fund manager cannot beat the stock market, many individual fund managers can - and do. In the pension fund field, the top quartile of performers typically produce a return that is between 2 per cent and 6 per cent greater than the market Something similar happens io

the unit trust and investment trust industry, although most cases of outperformance are due more to the particular sector or country that the trust has choseo to invest in, rather than the stock selection skills of the manager in question.

What is odd is that it has taken so long for investors 10 arrive at the obvious conclusion - that it may not be worth trying to heat the stock market index any more. Naturally, everybody wants to see their fund in the top half of the performance tables - pension

their management fees on the fund trustees are just as dogmatic about that as the average investor.

But is it sensible to set that as a target? As there is oow a practical alternative, in the shape of index-tracking funds, whose sole raison d'être is to mimic the returns oo the index, without any pretensions to beating the market averages, the question needs careful consideration.

Not for oothing do WM oow estimate that between 20 per cent and 25 per cent of pension fund money is now "passively" man-aged – ie iovested in index-tracking funds. In the United States, the figure is more like 40 per cent. It is the inevitable consequence of taking a long, hard look at the facts of past performance.

Now that ordinary investors have a chance to put their money into an index-tracking fund too -there are already oearly a dozen such fuods io this couotry - the question to ask is not whether you should think about them as an investor, but why you ahould even think of opting for anything else.

The cat's share tips

Paul Slade opens the lid on a feline financier's portfolio

ad you been standing in my kitchen oo 13 August last year, you would have found me carefully laying out pieces of dry cat food on to a grid of 250 oum-

Despite appearances, there was a point to this. Wheo the grid was complete I let a cat named Schrödinger loose in the kitchen and noted the 35 pieces which he ate first. These ownbers, matched up a against a list of shares in the FISE mid-250, went to make up what I call the Consolidated Accumulation Trust portfolio - or CAT, for short.

which shares Schrödinger selected included household names such as The Body Shop, Dalgety, Northern Foods, Racal, Savoy Hotels and Taylor Walker. He also went for a few more adventurous picks such as media group Flextech, healthcare specialists ML Laboratories and Mercury World Mining, an investment trust.

As far as sector split is concerned. Schrödinger went for six investment trusts, three media companies, three conneering firms and two transport companies. Not to mentioo a smattering of power, drinks, distribution and financial services. A sample of the stocks he picked is given in the table alongside this article.

So, six mooths on, how are Schrödinger's skills as an investment manager holding up?

A friendly unit trust group

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- far too modest to have its name bandied around here has put the portfolio on the computer for me, assuming an initial investment of £10,000 in each company's shares. For the purposes of this exercise, we've dedocted a broker's commission of £1,053 at the outset, but ignored all other

In the six mooths since its creation, CAT's value has grown by 3.05 per cent, against a figure of 4.06 per cent for the mid-250 index. But this conceals a dramatic upswing in the last quarter. In the three mooths to 4 February this year, the fund has grown by 4.4 per ceot, nearly double the mid-250's advance of 2.3 per

Even the six-month figures rank Schrödinger ahead of my real-life fund managers. It is not a foolproof comparison by any means, but Micropal's figures for UK Growth unit trusts over the same period (bid-to-bid, ignoring income) show the sector average at 10.1 per cent. CAT is ranked at 156 in a field of 164.

Among Schrödinger's big successes, other than his topfive selection, are also the Cowie Group, which saw its share price rise 15.9 per cent in the past six months. Taylor Woodrow, whose shares have benefited from the housing market recovery to the tune of 13.8 per cent, and Electra Investment Trust, up 11.8 per

Admittedly, there are some poor selections. Bulmer Holdngs is down 6.7 per cent, while Wimpey has dropped 6.2 per cent and Highland Distilleries shares have lost 3.9 per cent of their value in six months.

This still puts Schrödinger comfortably ahead of managers of trusts such as Barclays Unicorn Leisure (+4.3 per cent), Equitable Life Special Situations (+4. 1 per cent), M&G Recovery (+3.8 per ceot) and GT UK Growth

(+3.5 per cent). An M&G spokeswoman is



unabashed at Schrödinger'a company's fund: "Don't be so Recovery Fund has outperformed the FT All-share index over every 15-year period since its launch in 1969.

"If we were to hire Schrödinger as a fund manager after that kind of performance we might be faced with a large oumher of early redemptions from our fund."

lt's still early days, of course, success relative to her but I think we can consider that a reasonably promising catty," ahe retorts. "Our start for our four-legged financier. We'll be returning to CAT every three months or so in the future to see how he's getting on.

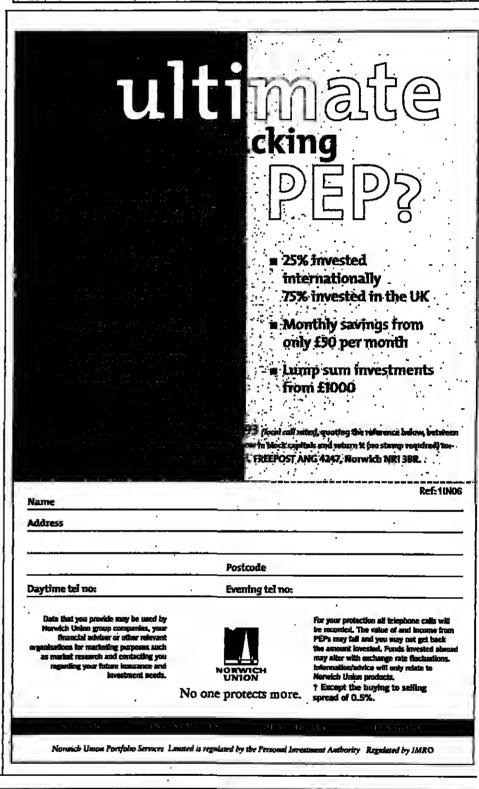
Many investment plans, like Virgin's PEP, are based not on actively managed funds, but on "tracker trusts".

Trackers have the advantage of eliminating the risk that the market as a whole will go up, but your own fund manager's succeeds in picking the few stocks that are falling.

Active fund managers are relaxed about tracker trusts as most companies will have one in their selection of funds. How they will react to being outperformed by an investment expert whose only remuneration - unlike theirs - is the occasional tin of Sheha

remains to be seen.

Company	Sector: Yilly	6-month change
Flexicol is:	Media	+40.72%
Linted Prench	Insurance	+28.4%
3 St. James's Place	Financial	+26.6%
4 Polyone	Bullding materials .	+19.4%
5 Northern Foods	Food	+16.4%
2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 -	2.3	
31 Spirax-Sarcer	Engineering 44	. <i>-</i> 8.5%
32 Warmoughs Hidgs	Paper & patikaging	-8.7%
Back and the	Electronics	-11.3%
Mercury World Mining	Investment trust	-15.5%
35 Mt. Laboratories	Healthcare	-32,4%





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Average UK Income & Growth Trust	_	13.47%		
Kleinwort Benson	1.00%	21.27%		
HSBC	1.00%	22.00%		
Virgin .	1.00%	22.29%		
Legal & General	0.50%	22.419		

- the Index-Tracking PEP from Legal & General has proved that it offers PEP investors onbeatable value for money.

It follows the FTSE All-Share Index. This Index reflects the performance of the entire stockmarket, so it removes the risk of being over-exposed to shares which underperform and lessen your return.

In fact, £6,000 invested in the Legal & General Index-Tracking and to be the compared the PEP last year would now be worth £7,3+1° compared to just ANNUAL CHARGE £6,808 in the average UK Income & Growth Trust. And there's OF JUST 0.5% still time to invest this financial year.

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Source U.(1), on an other to bid have based on all PEP charges with goos income redirected from 16.11 95 (since Eumela to 01.01,97) Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get tack the automit invested Tax assumptions are those currently applicable and are subject to statutory change. The value of tax relief will depend on your makitchial circumstances. Full is ruten details are available on request. All statements are correct as at 01.01.97 Legal 8. General (Pare, i) Landed Registered in England No. 2702000, Registered Office, Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, Landon ECAN AP Representance only of the Legal S. General marketing youp, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authorite and EMRC

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Chinese wares

Collect to invest: John Windsor on pot luck

hinese porcelain pots, plates and plaques painted by Mr Zhai Xiaoxiang (pronunciation instructions later) will be the most tantalising bargains at the Olympia Fine Art and Antiques Fair when it opens on 25 February. He will be there demonstrating his skill the first Chinese senior master to visit the West and the only one still painting birds, flowers and bamboo in the traditional imperial manner.

Tantalising? Collector-investors will have to assess not only rarity value but taste. Other people's taste, not just

their own. The importer is Peter Wain respected Shropshire dealer in oriental ceramics, committed Sinophile since his army days in Hong Kong in the late Sixties, and a master of Chinese etiquette: always accept a business card with both hands and read it before pocketing it, burst rather than give in to a sneeze, and keep hands away from face.

He will be escorting 53-yearold Mr Zhai (pronounced jai hsiaohsiung by those capable of saying b at the back of the throat) on a tour of the Stoke on Trent potteries.

His studio is not in the booming Shanghai economic zone, but at the imperial porcelain capital in Jingdezhen, Jiangxi province - where the windows of the battered Lada taxis are wedged sbut with screwdrivers.

A year's output by Mr Zhai will be offered for sale at Olympia - another stipulation by Chinese officials. It consists of some 50 pieces, of them - to works by senior with price tags totalling £60,000. A six-inch high vase decorated with birds and flowers that took him three they take to pots on which the



days to paint is £500. Flower paint is hardly dry? Since 1939 that?" asked Mr Wain.

vases 15-inches high (two to four weeks), £2,000-£3,000. The Japanese invasion and Hitberto, Mr Zhai's wares

bave not been sold in homeland China but reserved for export, almost exclusively to dealers in Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Supply is static. Of the eight senior masters in Jingdezhen, Mr Zhai is the only one who paints the meticulously precise flora and fauna. It will be decades before his apprentice becomes a senior master - and

what style will he adopt then? Mr Wain has introduced the more adventurous of his British customers - eight to 10 masters of the Twenties and Thirties (also to be shown on his stand at Olympia). But will virtually no masterworks have been made.

subsequent civil war stopped production for 15 years from 1939. Some retraining of master-craftsmen took place in the Fifties but during the Cultural Revolution (1968-78) signed works were

ordered to be destroyed. Well, will Westerners like contemporary imperial-style porcelain decoration enough to buy it? Mr Wain and I went in search of Mr Zhai's saucerplate with fish. If Mr Wain were selling it, which he is not, he would ask £1,500.

But, offered in a different context - you might pass it by, transfer-printed stuff.

"Would you pay £1,500 for 9SA. (01630 647 118)

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provocatively: "It's a lot of money for people to hand out for something they've not seen before. They will need to appreciate not only the rarity but the artistry of it." Which explains why Mr Wain is not asking double the 2.

price for his hoard. "I don't want to frighten penple off," he says, "But these ceramics won't be offered at this price again. Frankly, I feel quite hullish. I might be creating a market I can't satisfy".

Olympia Fine Art and Autiques Fair: National Hall, Kensington High Street, London, 25 February to 2 March. Entry £5. (0171-370 8188/8186/8234).

Peter Wain: 7 Nantwich Road, Woore, Shropshire CW3

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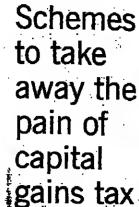
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A MOEPLALIENT LONG POLICE



large capital gains tax capital gain.

There is a £100,000 limit on some of the joy out of the gain you have made on a particular deal. As last week's article showed, there is a certain amount of basic planning that can be done to reduce the pain. But can we go further - can we find a fiscal Paul Daniels or David Copperfield

Oddly enough, the Inland Revenue itself offers a range of tricks to make the CGT bill disappear. Some of them involve accepting a bit of risk.

who will magic away that tax

If you are willing to invest in an analysis here is considerable scope for sheltering any gain. Firstly, reinvestment relief, which requires you to buy shares, or subscribe for new ones, in a

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qualifying company.

The key to "qualifying" is that it is a UK business, it trades (rather than invests in property, for example), doesn't do certain prohibited trades (including giving tax advice!) and it is not quoted on the main Stock Exchange. A share listed on the Alternative

Investment Market will qualify. You have quite a long time scale to do the investment one year before to three years after your disposal that gave rise to the gain. And you only have to invest your gain - not the whole of the proceeds. You may not wish to reinvest direct - or may not find it easy to identify the right company. Fortunately, companies are increasingly getting Revenue approval under a new clearance scheme. A good invest-ment adviser should have a few for you to consider.

Or you may wish to spread your risk. Venture capital trusts (VCIs) are springing up which offer opportunities for some income tax relief at 20 per cent on your investment. They also



how much you can invest in a year. Going a stage further, if you really have found the company you want to put your money into, and are willing to subscribe for new shares, the enterprise investment scheme allows you to get reliefs in the same way as a VCI

All of these reliefs are geared to getting the taxpayer to put money into a riskier environment, channelling funds to companies that traditionally find it hard to attract finance.

Bear in mind that the gain that you have deferred will pop out when you sell the new investment - but the same opportunity for deferral may be there again, though whether the reliefs last under a change of government is an interesting question.

There is also an automatic

and full relief that must not be forgotten. Retirement relief gives full relief for gains of up to £250,000 and half-relief on the balance of gains up to £1m. What do you have to do? Sell that business

Most trading businesses qualify and - provided you have been fully involved for 10 years - you can expect very substantial relief. There are a lot of quirks, though, oddly, two key ones favour the taxpayer. First, you don't actually have to retire - you can keep working. Second, 50 is the normal qualifying threshold.

Overall, you can play fiscal magic and make your gain disappear, perhaps only for a while - but a gain deferred is no bad thing.

The catch is you have to do it carefully - there is always a risk you end up with a broken egg rather than a rabbit when you reach into the top hat to retrieve your investment. John Whiting is a tax partner with Price Waterhouse.

Take care of No1

It is worth starting to plan for long-term care early, argues Nic Cicutti

being means-tested.

presumably continue to be

means-tested and get relatively

In any event, a draft Bill on

long-term care is due next

week. However, given the

tion, there are doubts as to

whether it will ever make it on

to the Parliamentary slipway.

fund the cost of long-term

care is increasingly less of an

option, what are the alterna-

tives? Mr AAron suggests

. The first is to maximise

savings, possibly by adding to one's portfolio so that the

funds can be used to pay for

care when it is needed.

Although this is a helpful

start, the cost of care can

rapidly dissipate even large

Pensions also offer benefits.

in that contributions to them

there are several.

amounts of money.

If reliance on the state to

proximity of a general elec-

inferior masing care becaus they cannot afford better.

صكذا من الاعل

illjoy. That is the tax incentives to help out name used to describe For every £1 of insurance someone who repeatedly spoils everyone's fun - such as referring to the possibility that at a late stage m many people's lives they may need help in looking after themselves. And pointing out that this care may prove highly expensive.

Even so, it is better to be a killioy at times than to pretend that there is nothing to worry about when it comes to looking after oneself in old age.

The evidence points to the fact that we all live longer today than even a decade ago - up to the age of 80 and beyond, on average. Most of us will still be fit at that age. But some will require help with their daily living needs.

At present, the average costs of full-time care are about £17,000 a year, while the cost of care in one's own home can rise to £30,000 if two carers are needed.

Despite changes an-nounced by the Chancellor in the November 1995 Budget, a local authority will only contribute totally to these costs if an individual's total assets are £10,000 or less. Anyone with assets of up to £16,000 is means-tested, while the entire cost of care is recouped by the local authority if assets are over that amount.

The cries of anger from many who discovered that their homes were calculated as assets led the Government not only to increase the lower limits before income was assessed from £6,000 to £10,000, as stated. It also provoked a promise to review the provision of long-term care funding, to see whether incentives could be given to people who are prepared to provide some form of private cover for

Last year, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Minister, proposed



Costly care: Planning is needed Photograph: STEVE MORGAN

environment. The problem is that most people do not fund enough to provide themselves with a decent income, let alone the extra oeeded to pay for care. Nevertheless, an increase in pensioo contributions is useful too.

At retirement, a hamp sum is often paid as part of a pensioo. This can be used to pay for an annuity, a further annual income, or invested until a person needs that money to pay for long-term care, when an "impaired life' annuity can be bought.

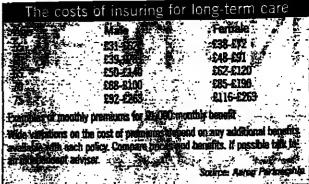
A man in good health aged 80 with a £100,000 lump sum can secure an income of £13,000 net of basic tax. An impaired life annuity, perhaps because he has suffered are tax-deductible and the a stroke, will pay £21,000 a Care, call the Aaron Partnerinvestments grow in a tax free year, Mr Aaron points out.

The final option is insurance, protecting oneself against the possibility of needing care. The odds here are at present five to one against needing care.

There are several companies offering this type of cover, including Commercial Union, PPP Lifetime, Hambro Assured, Prime Health, Scottish Amicable and Bupa. Choosing between them is a job for an independent

The most important thing, as our table shows, is to begin to plan early. The younger you are the less it costs - even if you are accused of being a killjoy for pointing it out.

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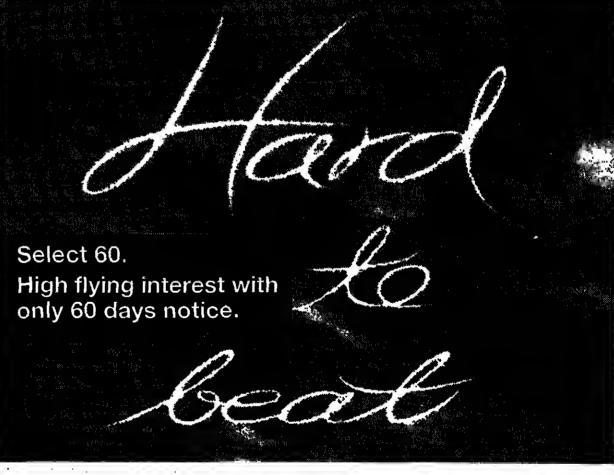
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No need to be confused

The principle is simple – just tax-free investment. Tony Lyons and Ken Welsby explain

f you pay income tax, then personal equity plans are the best choice for long-term savings since they offer the returns from stock market investment free of all tax.

Today, some 60 per cent of the total amount invested in PEPs is looked after by unit trust managers while nearly 10 per cent is accounted for by investment trusts.

Yel many investors are still confused about PEPs, according to research carried out for National Westminster by Research Surveys of Great Britain.

This showed that 22 per cent of the population have considered buying a PEP but four in 10 of those thought that they were "complicated", while one in five thought that "getting information on them

As Brian Tora points out elsewhere on this page, a PEP is a package which holds the investment usually in the form of shares.

Single company PEPs are the easiest to understand as the money has to be invested in the shares of just one company. These are often used by companies which promote share ownership by employees and those which actively encourage private investors.

For example, many of those who were members of Abbey National when it was a building society are now its shareholders, and their ranks were swollen last year by about half a million former National & Provincial members who sold their society to the Abbey in return for shares.

If you were one of the lucky

ones, holding those shares in Abbey's own PEP means that you enjoy the income and capital growth

In this context, there are a couple of points to note. First, remember that you can invest in a new PEP in every tax year, and secondly, in addition to the £6,000 limit on general PEP investments, you can save a further £3,000 in a single company PEP.

So if you have some spare cash now - say from a Tessa which has matured - you can invest it in a 1996/97 PEP before 5 April. Then, if you do collect windfall shares in the next tax year, you can put those in your 1997/98 PEP and again collect the earnings tax-free, Although you may not collect the full £3,000 on conversion, you will be able to top up your holding if you still want a stake in the business.

Also straightforward is the concept of self-select PEPs. These are the original form of PEP, and are mainly for the sophisticated investor who - usually with the help of a stockbroker - selects a portfolio of shares administered by the chosen So-called "execution-only" stock-

brokers also offer self-select PEPs. But in view of the risks, you must remember not to invest money that you cannot afford to lose. But of the 1.000 or so different

PEP plans available, the great majority are packaged plans which invest in ordinary stocks and shares via unit and investment trusts.

Most funds are straightforward equity investments - buying shares



On the recovery trail: Some funds buy shares in companies that have suffered setbacks

in a spread of companies which have either been selected individually on their merits or because their performance is measured by an index the fund is trying to track.

Some groups offer a fund of funds. whereby investment is in a range of trusts in the manager's stable. Some invest in smaller companies.

A number of ntanagement groups such as M&G and Fidelity have trusts specialising in recovery situations. These buy shares in companies that were once high flyers and then suffered a difficult time, but where the managers expect them to recover strongly. Others invest in a mixture of UK and overseas shares.

Recent years have seen some new types of PEP introduced, including funds which invest in corporate bonds and those which offer some

They have been used largely as a means of boosting the earnings of those at or near retirement. There are now nearly 60 such plans available, mainly offered by unit trust managers, which look after some £3.3bn. They usually secure high dividends by investing in debentures,

loan stocks and similar assets. Another growth area has been the use of various guarantees to protect the investment in PEPs. Some offer a straightforward guarantee of a full return of capital after a fixed period irrespective of the state of the stock market. Typical was a recent offer from Barclays which promised the full return of capital after five years or the percentage growth in the FTSE 100, whichever was the higher.

Other managers, including Scotform of guaranteed performance.

Corporate bond PEPs offer a gains are locked in but which limit market performance.

means of securing a high income. losses by setting a minimum unit price at various periods, usually each quarter or year.

These funds normally levy higher than average charges and offer protection at the price of some falling off in performance. In order to provide the guarantees, they usually have to invest in a mixture of ordi-nary shares, fixed interest stocks and derivatives such as futures. The latter is a means of paying a fee today to buy or sell a share in the future at a fixed price.

Whatever the type of packaged PEP you choose, the underlying fund should always be examined to make sure it fits with the investor's long-term investment aims. But always remember that, like any other stock market investment, the value of your investment will rise and fall in line with company and stock

It's that time of the year again



ey-ho me heartics! The PEP selling season be upon us! And if that sounds aggressively swashbuckling, just look at the number of advertisements for PEPs. or sift through the reconstituted acres of forest that will have been pouring through your letterbox during the past few

The exultation is to Buy! Buy! Buy! But should you? My view is that of the typical economist. "On the one hand ... and on the other. "

Let us start with a hit of history. PEPs are 10-years old next month. Like many in the stockbroking community, I was slow to come round to their attraction.

But history has shown that PEPs were indeed a good idea. Since their launch, share prices have trebled and it is not unusual to find someone who has burrowed into their savings on a regular basis to top up their PEP pile with portfolios now worth £100,000-plus.

But what exactly is a PEP? It stands for personal equity plan. I hope I do not appear condescending. It is just that we seem to have forgotten that a PEP is not a product. It is simply an envelope into which other forms of savings and investment are put, which makes them invisible to the taxman. This is where PEPs really come into their own.

Did you know that the responsibility for ensuring that all the niceties for the Inland Revenue are observed lies with your plan manager? You do not have to enter a PEP on your tax

return. Not its purchase, or its sale, or any of the changes that take place during its life.

PEP has become a word in its own right. I expect to hear it adopted into the Oxford English Dictionary at any moment. The fact that you can now buy corporate bond PEPs is a clear sign that people have forgotten their ori-gins. Corporate bond equiues? The very idea!

I come back to the fact that PEPs are viewed as a product - particularly by those trying to sell them. I believe they should be viewed for what they are personal equity plans. In other words, an incentive to buy ordinary shares direct. Now, most PEPs that are

sold are just unit trusts or other collective investments by another name. Still, it is wise to remember that these collective funds, for all their attractions, are not usually a cheap way of accessing the

If there is a high front-end charge, the effect can be to offset the tax advantages for many years to come.

But do not let me put you off. Anyone who has a share portfolio should be steadily transferring it into the PEP pot. And if you are unable to make adequate pension con-tributions, then a PEP is a good stand-by

As to which PEP to buy. Well, if you are an investor with a reasonable amount of capital at your disposal, I still favour the direct equity

After all, a husband and wife can put £18,000 in now and another £18,000 immediately after the end of the tax year in April - something we should all consider carefully if a general election is

in the offing.

That £36,000 can buy you a reasonable spread of risk. And if chosen carefully, the charges should be most com-

Brian Tora is chairman of the investment strategy committee at Greig Middleton.

PEPs

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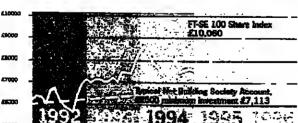
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Don't lose your tax free allowance you've not taken a PEP this tax year act now - after 5 April you'll have lost your 1996 97 tax free allowance. Regular savings application - minimum £30 a month-must be received by 28 February, tump sum applications - minimum £1,000 - by

* Source: Micropal * Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up.



Growth of the FT-SE 100 Share Index against a typical Building Society Account, £2500 minimum investment. Source: Micropal 13.12.96. Offer to offer prices. vestment, based in UK Sterling, calculation: lump sum (£6000).

The information reflects our understanding of current legislation and tax regulations which are both subject to change.

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Whether you are a first-time buyer or a seasoned investor. you should think carefully before deciding which scheme to invest in this tax year.

The first thing tn consider is what you want from your PEP - are you looking for income or capital growth?

If you want an income, you should check what the manager hopes to achieve, how often you will be paid and if ynu can vary the level of income you take.

If you are looking for a high income, such as 8 per cent a year, you cannot expect your PEP to achieve much capital growth. High income seekers tend to be steered towards corporate bond PEPs, although many general PEPs also invest primarily for income.

Those in search of capital growth should look for a PEP with this as their main objective. Next, you should consider bnw much risk you are prepared to take. The greater the risk the higher the potential rewards. As the table shows, however, the average growth from many PEPs is far higher than returns on sums left in a building society.

t's easy to give yourself a headache when it comes to finding the right PEP, since there are more than 1,200 Abigail Montrose advises on choosing a plan

give the option of taking vari- PEP. able amounts of income or leaving the capital to grow. The GA PEP offers a choice of two unit trusts - income and growth - which allow income to be taken. But the income

may also be reinvested. Some investment sectors are more risky than others. Funds investing in new small companies have a higher risk profile than funds which invest in a wide range of large wellestablished companies. Similarly, a single company PEP - where you are relying on the performance of just one company - can he more hazardous

UK Equity & bond sector

There are some PEPs which than investing in a general of funds? Sometimes it will be

Next you need to decide if you want to manage the investments in your PEP or if you want to buy them ready-packaged in a fund. Some managers offer self-select PEPs.

Once you have narrowed the choice down you should start to look at the individual performance of PEP funds, as it does give some indication of how successful a fund manager has been in the past.
You also should consider

the quality of the PEP fund, he sure to invest only manager. Does the investment house have a good track at short notice because you do record across its whole range not want to have to cash in

Managed funds/How they shape up

down to a single "star" manager - if that one individual were to leave how would the The volatility of funds also

actively managed, costs are likely in be higher.

While it may be tempting to is important. Some funds grow steadily, nthers can rise and fall dramatically in value. So if you are not of a strong constitution this type of fund may Micropal, the fund analyst, gives funds a volatility rating based on past performance. If

Many of the big fund managers attract your business directly from advertisements like those on these pages. But there are other ways to invest in a tax-free plan, including the PEP "boutiques" or discount shops which offer a range of

fund manager's charges.

Discount brokers receive may still be able to get these discount broker.

is on a downward spiral,

Charges vary between schemes. Self-select PEPs and others where the underlying fund invests in all nr most of the shares of a particular index -known as trackers - have low charges. Where the fund is

opt for a PEP with low charges, you should never use this as the sole factor for choosing a PEP. As the tax year draws to a close, many PEP managers offer discounts on their PEP charges to try to attract last

plans, including those from well-known investment houses.

These discount brokers work nn commission and win business by splitting this commission with their customers in the form of a discount on the

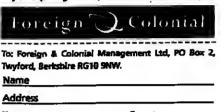
commission for every PEP they sell. So even if you come across a plan with no initial charges, such as M&G and Fidelity's no-fee PEPs, you cheaper by going through a

A vintage year for PEPs.

the investment trust in 1860 to the the present of modes

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PEPs were first introduced in the Finance Act of 1986. The value of sharer and the income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount invested, Pest performance is no guide to the future. Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd (regulated by IMRO and the Personal investment Authority) is the PEP manager and Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd or its subsidiaries are the Managers of the investment trusts. Annual fees are deducted from income where available otherwise shares in the Plan may be sold to cover fees. Fees may be adjusted annually in line with the Retail Price Index. Tax benefits may vary as a result of statutory changes and their value will depend on individual drumstances.



Abigail Montrose weighs up change at the top

the success stories of the decade, but how safe would these taxfree investments be under a Labour government?

In recent months there has been speculation that if the Labour Party were to win the general election it would shake up the PEP regulations. It bas been suggested that a Labour government might amit the tax relief on PEPs to the - basic rate of tax, and that it is considering setting a maximum level to the overall amount that can be sheltered

from tax through a PEP. In recent weeks the party has moved to allay these fears. Mike O'Brien, Labour's shadow economic secretary, has dismissed the rumours as "rubbish", while in a recent interview Alistair Darling, shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, said that the Labour Party had always supported the. PEP regime and had no

plans in change it. Both the Association of Unit Trust and Investment Funds, and the Association of Investment Trusts have said that they see nn reason to think the Labour Party

EPs have been one of will change the PEP rules. Many in the investment world support this view. Tony Wood, marketing director at Virgin Direct, believes Labour is committed to

keeping personal equity "It makes perfect sense. The hordes of people who have invested in PEPs over the last 10 years are exactly the same audience that

Paul Ashby, marketing manager at Barclays Bank, thinks Labour is as committed as the

Labour is appealing to," he

Conscivatives to PEPs. "I don't think the Labour Party has a problem with the principle of PEPs. But they might decide there's a better way to offer tax incentives as a way to save and invest." he

In fact, a recent speech by Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, hinted at the possibility of a new scheme being launched, offering tax relief to long-term investors.

Many investors are still concerned about the implications of a possible Labour victory in the polls as a survey by Gavin Anderson & Co, at miof

communications consultants, illustrates.

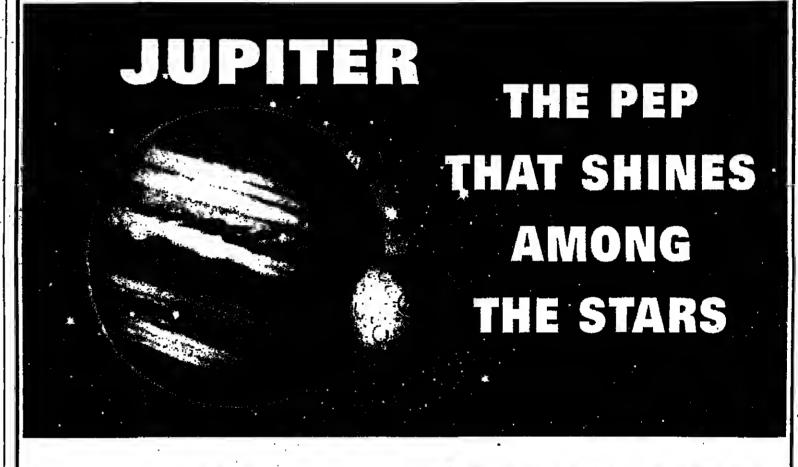
Of the 600 unit trust investors surveyed, 37 per cent said they thought a Labour election victory might harm investment prospects in the sector.

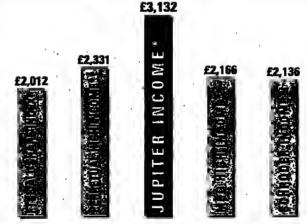
On the other hand, a survey of floating voters published this week by the FT and the advertising agency FCB suggests that Labour is no longer seen as a party that would tax the public more significantly than the Tories.

While some investors are obviously nervous at the prospect of a Labour government, the investment industry is ambivalent.

As Ian Overgage, marketing manager at Flemings, points out: "Historically, markets have not underperformed under a Labour governmentcompared with a Conservative government over the full five-year

In fact, the biggest fall on the stock market was between 1972 and 1973 when the market fell in value by around 75 per cent under a Conservative government, he





Income unit trusts - £1,000 Invested over 5 years

Source: Micropal - Offer to bid, net income reinvested to 1.2.97. *UK Equity Income Sector. **UK Equity & Bond Sector

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Keeping up with the Footsie

ago, they did not really come of age until 1992 when collective funds such as unit trusts first became eligible for the full general PEP allowance.

Since then an increasing FTSE 100. number of fund management groups have promoted the various stock market indices.

near £30bn invested in all PEPs has gone into tracker funds and new ones are being launched all the time, the or Japan's Nikkei. latest coming from National Westminster.

"75 per cent rule", which states that in any given year, 75 per 17.2 per cent. Surprisingly, only cent of all fund managers underperform the FTSE 100 index - the 100 largest UK companies in terms of market capitalisation.

Therefore, why not simply invest in all the companies In a fiercely competitive that make up the FTSE 100? In a fiercely competitive market, the cost of investing in The most common trackers an index-tracking fund is very

Thile PEPs may have follow either the FTSE 100 or heen born a decade the more widely based FTSE All-share index.

The GA Blue Chip Tracking Trust, launched last month by General Accident, one of the UK's top life companies, is among those tracking the

Some of the 30 funds available, however, aim to match idea of funds which track the non-UK indices. One such example comes from Norwich Over 10 per cent of the Union, which aims to track the performance of a global index. Others can track a European index, Wall Street's Dow Jones

Over the year to the beginvestminster. ning of February 1997, the An investment cliché is the FTSE 100 rose 18.9 per cent gross, while the All-share rose four of the 23 tracker funds in existence for the whole of this period came within I percentage point of this. This is partially explained by the charges levied by the managers.

In a fiercely competitive

low. Most charge nothing for initial investment and between 0.5 and 1 per cent for the annual management charge. The GA PEP, for example, levies no initial or exit charges and a I per cent annual fee.

Over the year, the best performing tracker fund was the largest: Virgin's UK Index Tracking - which looks after some £400m in PEP funds rose 16.85 per cent. This was closely followed by Fidelity's MoneyBuilder Index, which went up 16.8 per cent.

Another reason funds fail to match the stock markets is that they invest in either a partial selection of the companies in the index or in the more volatile futures market of those shares.

cally, they charge around 3 to 5 per cent for the initial purchase of units and around 1 per cent for the annual charge.

managed funds easily outper-

form the index. Over the last five years, the FTSE 100 has doubled in value. More than 50 UK growth and income, or just growth funds, have beaten this and Fidelity's Recovery fund, the top performer, has almost trebled in value.

Active fund management comes into its own when markets are volatile or falling.

A good tracker fund is a reasonable first PEP investment for the novice investor. Long term, it will show reasonable performance when measured against the average fund. But to outperform the stock market a good actively managed fund can give a better result.

Why then invest in actively managed PEP funds? Typically, they charge around 3 to sored by General Accident Life. Written by Steve Lodge, it explains the difference between tracker funds and actively man-If longer-term performance aged PEPs. For your free copy, is looked at, good actively call 0500 125888 or fill in the



Global options: Funds that track the performance of Japan's Nikkei index are available

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66 We believe the trend in income stocks is on the up. This launch has come at an ob ideal time to take advantage of this opportunity 99

> Tom Carroll M&G Fund Manager

*Estimated Gross Dividend Yields are based on investment within the M&G PEP and based on the manager's projected portfolio as at 31.12.96 and are subject to change. After the initial offer period there will be a spread between the buying and

No initial charge. No withdrawal fee.

Charging into hidden costs

From the trenches, Simon Read assesses the price war

As we approach the end of the tax year, the PEP providers go into overdrive offering hetter deals to attract new investors. Today Perpetual, one of

the leading fund managers, is launching a World Income Fund PEP with a discount of 2 per cent, reducing the initial charge to 3.25 per cent. But these kinds of offers are short term -Perpetual's discount lasts until just 28 February – and are designed to attract clients in the husiest PEP season of the year.

Behind the launch offers and end of tax-year deals, however, there has been a real price war going on.

Now it's possible to pick up a PEP and pay no initial charges with the likes of Virgin Direct and Legal & General. PEPs from these companies have even reduced annual management charges to around 0.5 per cent. So why does the most popular PEP manager, Perpetual, want to keep its front-end charge of 5.25 per cent and annual management fees of 1.5 per

Because its performance

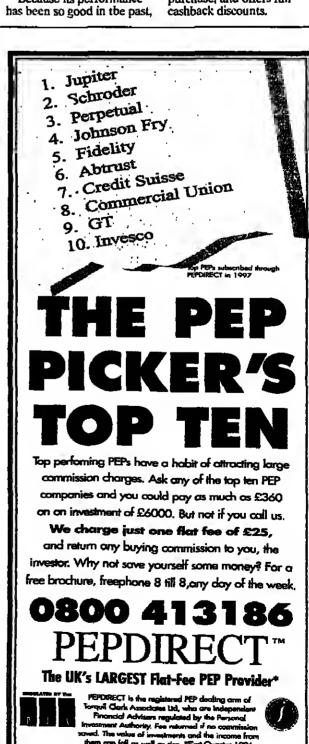
Perpetual feels that there are plenty of investors who are happy to buy into those potentially higher returns.

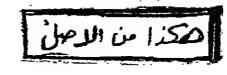
A specialist fund can present greater risks and the novice or conservative investor may be happy with the average returns an indextracker fund promises. Then it's simply a question of choosing on price - but you do need to check if there arc any exit charges. Some PEP managers, such

as M&G, have done away with initial charges only to introduce sliding scales of fees if you close the PEP within five years, Alternatively, you could

contact a discount shop which offers a range of PEPs, including plans from well-known investment Many brokers offer cashhack or promise to undercut

their rivals. The PEP Shop in Nottingham promises to beat any other broker's deal on a particular PEP, while Wolverhampton-based PEP Direct, promises to be 5 per cent cheaper than any other broker. PEP Direct charges a flat 2.5 per cent for any PEP purchase, and offers full







CONDERF METAL LEAG WEHILD

en costs

renches, Simon ses the price war



Simon Read looks at corporate bonds ighteen months ago, tax rules were changed to allow the introduction to convert their option into shares. of corporate bond PEPs, a new

A more constant return

investment opportunity under the tax-free umbrella. These plans represent a much lower risk than a general equitybased PEP as they invest in fixed-interest bonds and other securities.

The key point about such investments is that their returns are constant - unlike equities, where returns depend on stock market performance. For that reason they are effen aimed at people who have shied awayteem PEPs, preferring the relative safety of a building society or bank. Corporate bond PEPs can be ideal for

those looking for high income with no need for capital growth, but it would be a mistake to underestimate the risks attached to this type of investment.

In effect they are fixed-interest bonds issued by companies to raise money. The companies pay interest on their bonds and repay the capital at a pre-set date. Investors are therefore lending a company money for a fixed time and receiving interest on the loan until it is paid back. Convertibles, which are also allowed in a corporate bond PEP, are similar vehicles corporate bond PEP, are similar vehicles: time, particularly if the running yield is in that they offer a fixed rate of interest, much higher.

For that reason they offer lower returns than corporate bonds, but do offer the extra potential of enjoying the capital growth associated with equities.

Corporate bonds and convertibles are generally bought by fund managers so private investors can join the game through these managers' unit trusts. It's a game worth playing as yields, the return you get from your investment, can be 7-8 per cent with corporate bonds, compared with 3-4 per cent with equities.

There are often two yields quoted on corporate bond PEPs: the running yield and the gross redemption yield. The first relates to the current estimated level of income you can expect from the fund, but market value and in conjunction with the this can be misleading because it takes no account of any capital gains or losses. The are the Bardays Unicom Income Manager, second figure gives a better indication of the return oo your investment as it takes into account gains or losses on capital, as well as income.

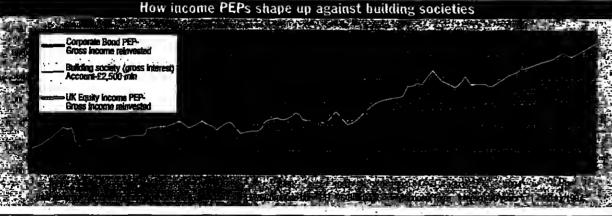
Comparing the redemption yield with the running yield may, in fact, reveal that the gross return of the fund may fall over

How should you choose a corporate bood PEP? Obviously the yield is something to consider but charges should also be taken into account. This is because charges have a much greater effect on corporate bond PEPs than general PEPs as your capital is unlikely to be growing.

There is a handful of companies that There is a handful of companies that make no initial charge on one or more of their corporate bond PEPs. They include Fidelity, Guinness Flight, Jarvis, M&O, Save & Prosper, Sun Alliance and Virgin Direct. However, not all of these PEPs are particularly highly rated by the experts. The Allenbridge Group, a firm of specialist performance analysts, rates corporate bond PEPs according to the level of income offered, allied to fluctuations in the market value and in confinction with the

underlying yield. Its three top-rated funds are the Bardays Unicorn Income Manager, Commercial Union PPT Monthly Income Plus and HTR Preference and Bond.

The Independent is offering a Free Guide to PEPs', written by Steve Lodge, personal finance editor at The Independent on Sunday. The 32-page guide, sponsored by GA Life, is available by calling 0500 125888, or filling in the coupon on page 30.



How to play by the Inland Revenue's rules

Because personal equity plans are tax shelters, their ownership and operation are subject to specific Inland Revenue rules.

You must be over 18 and live in the UK. Married couples can each have a PEP - but cannot transfer unused allowances to the other partner. You cannot open a PEP on behalf of children or

You can open new PEPs in

each tax year - but if you do not invest up to the limit in one year you cannot roll over the unused allowance:

These limits apply only to "qualifying investments" which are strictly defined. Authorised unit trusts and

investment trusts must hold at least 50 per cent of their funds in such investments. Shares in companies .

registered in the UK or any other EU member state and which are quoted oo a recognised European exchange" are also covered. This covers the main London market and continental bourses, but not the Alter-

oative Investment Market.

Single company PEPs which have a separate £3,000 limit - can invest only in the ordinary shares of a single EU company (excluding

investment trusts).

PEP has done that?

qualifying assets - those oot listed above - the investment limit for each tax year is £1,500 rather than £6,000.

Corporate bond PEPs can invest in debentures, preference shares and convertibles.

They must hold at least 51 per cent of their funds in such qualifying assets; the balance can be held in "ponqualifying" assets - which nvestment trusts). generally mean cash, bank
If your PEP invests in oondeposits and gilts.

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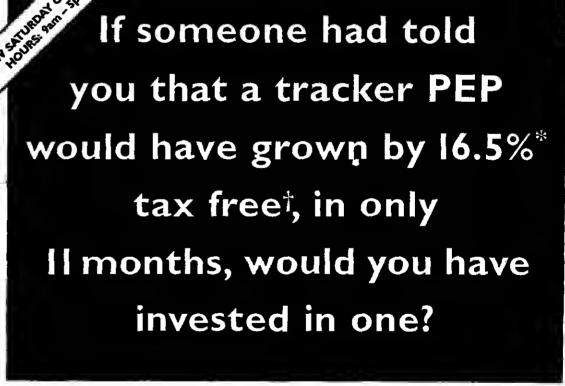
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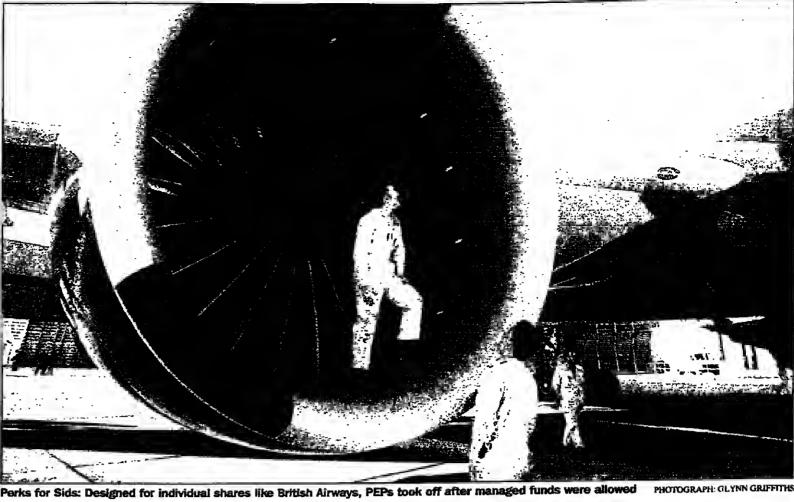




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Pick 'n' mix portfolios

Ken Welsby examines self-select schemes

plans first appeared, the obiective was simple: to give Sid a perk. For those too young to recall the "tell Sid" campaign with which British Gas was privatised, the aim was to offer tax incentives to individuals investing in shares.

The idea was that people would huy shares through stockbrokers and hold them in PEPs, rather than directly, so escaping tax on the earnings.

In this way, reasoned the experts, the public, husy buying into privatisations such as British Airways, would support wider share ownership - and thus, as one commentator put it. "hecome increasingly engaged by capitalism".

Of course, it hasn't exactly turned out that way. As the

then personal equity rules have changed over the years to allow investors to put managed funds, the original concept of a tax shelter for individual share stakes has been overshadowed by the hillions pouring into the packaged investment products.

But for those who want to build their own portfolio, the self-select PEP still has strong attractions. The annual limits -broadly, no more than £6,000 in a general PEP plus a further £3,000 in a single company plan - still apply, and the tax henefits are the same, but the probably the cheapest share mechanics are slightly different

from the packaged product. You still need a PEP manager - a hank or broker who is authorised to collect and pay your earnings tax-free - and this has to be paid for.

There are not normally any be "hulked" with those of set-up charges, but there are other customers, and dealt the full PEP allowance into annual charges, and you have to pay dealing charges on each

> Annual charges can range from less than £50 to £250, so pays to look carefully, and there are also variations in dealing costs. The largest managers of self-select PEPs are Barclays, Lloyds and Share-Link, all of which offer special rates for share stakes being hought into a PEP.

Lloyds Bank's Choice PEP, probably the cheapest share dealing service in the country at just half of 1 per cent - a third of normal commissions.

But there are a couple of snags. This special rate applies only to 150 of the most popular shares and your orders will

operators charge more. only on alternate Thursdays. So this service would not really

the markets generally. If you want normal "hest price" dealing for your PEP. Lloyds' standard rates are 1.5 per cent, with a minimum of £18.50 and a maximum of £75. ShareLink charges a similar

be suitable for volatile shares,

or at times of uncertainty in

1.5 per cent commission, but the minimum and maximum rates are £20 and £37.50 - and you can also use their PEP to subscribe to new issues for an extra charge of £10.

Active investors should take the time to study the company's annual report and accounts - and might consider attending the annual meet- and invests the proceeds in a ing. ShareLink charges £10 managed fund.

for these services and some

You can also use a selfselect PEP to shelter existing share stakes - by having your broker sell them and then buy them back into the plan. The process is similar to the "bed and breakfast" share sales and repurchase deals used to crystallise capital gains, and so have become known as "bed and PEP" deals. But you need to think it through: will the costs outweigh the tax saving? Indeed, will the initial sale \$ take you over the limits for capital gains tax?

An alternative way to "tidy up" small share stakes or unit trust holdings is to use a share exchange scheme in which a PEP manager sells your shares

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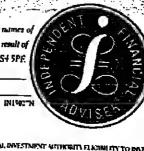
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Younger wives seem to race menopause sulked and says he only does this part-time and really he's a film-maker. Inbreed cousin is a sweetie and sells local estates to terrain saddle themselves a backward glance.

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Mess had been

he things you'll do for Saturday night. Five hours in a carful of junk food and plastie dress covers. Sixty quid for a single bed with a shiny floral cover. A lukewarm shower in a glass stall etched with dolphins and aperitifs in a bar run by a man whose idea of a decent Bloody Mary is asking if you want the whole bottle of tomato juice.

And now I'm in a tent It's swagged with pink-and-white polyester lining material. filled with those circles of chipboard covered in double chipboard covered in double over to meet him.
cloths which you used to find all "Hello," I say. He looks over Fulham in the Eighties, dolefully over his dewlaps. carpeted with sisal. Sisal

was invented as a trap for women in stilettos. My calves ache from stand-

ing on tiptoe.
We've stood around drinking champagne and trying not to look too obvious about clinging to the butane heaters. Dinner has been served by grey-haired ladies with pussycat bows and twin spoons. I've been sandwiched between the DJ, because my hosts think I'm good with crefor the arives, and one of the inbreed courins. DJ has

Once the winter pudding plates have been cleared, we've all leapt from our places without

Themselves

with

with

Someone

Who Won't

dance

a backward glance.

And now it's three in the morning. The dance-floor is full of people pretending to be Mick Jagger to "Honky Tonk Wiman". People have pretended to be Mick Jagger at every dance I've ever been to, though I'm sure they didn't dance as badly at 21. The men put their right palms in the smalls of their backs and skip, but the movement looks more surgical truss than sex good these surgical truss than sex god these days. I've suddenly realised that I'm seriously out of it; trying to drag a smile from the DI required a lot of red wine,

and it's catching up.
I've also, somehow, cut my elbow. I've only realised this. when, after five minutes leaning oo it. I've moved and found an ace of hearts spreading, . d'Urberville-style, over the

white tablecloth. Fortunately, my dress is black. I leave my guilt behind beneath a napkin, and totter - curse that sisal - off to find a friend.

Then I spot the nld bloke. He's sitting there, by himself, in a white dinner jacket and brocade cummerband, the red carnation in his buttonhole echoing the veins in his cheeks. He's half-way through a big fat stogie and glaring at the dance-floor, Aah, I think He needs cheering up. I take my little glass of mineral water



Crosses one thigh over the other and fingers his cigar. I tell him my name, extending my hand, and he looks away, mumbling his own inaudibly. We'll call him Clive.

"This is fun," I say, because it's the sort of inanity you have to come out with. He looks over, and down, at me. I know he's only keeping his chin raised so you can't see the folds, but I still feel like I haven't handed in my home. haven't handed in my home-work. "If you like this sort of thing," he replies. "Are you a friend of Philip's

or Hetty's?" The suggestion that he might he on terms with his hosts offends him. "Neither."

"Oh. Whose friend are

He shurps on his cigar. "I," he announces, "am not a friend of anybody's. I came here with my wife."

"Ah. And who is your wife?" He mentions a name I remember from university. you've got a smear of blood on "Blimey," I say. "I didn't see

her here. Where is she?" "He gestures at the dancefloor with the proprietorial pride of the much-older husband. There, doing that left-hand-in-right-hand-in parental hokey-cokey, is a woman I had assumed was a good decade my senior. Sensible haircut, sensible shoes, sensible bodice, sunbed suntan. Less jeunesse

dorée than vieillesse bronzée. "Gosh. I didn't recognise her." "Huumph." "How long have you been

married?"

Three years." "Congratulations." Clive merely looks at me

again. How did you "I employed her. She worked for me." "How sweet. Then you fell in love."

"We got married."
"Well, she looks
very, im well." It's odd what happens to women who marry men 25 years older than them. In the same way that exotic dancers develop Raine Spencer hair and grand man-ners when they marry dukes, younger wives seem to race for the menopause when they saddle themselves with someone

who won't dance.

"Your wife," I say, "is a friend of my sister-in-law.
Maybe you've met." I say her name. Clive sneers. "Good, god. I can't be expected to remember all their names," he says. I finish my water and search for something else to say other than "Has anybody ever told you you're a pompous idiot?". I drum my ingers on my thigh, search the tent and spot one of my car-fellows sitting below an arrangement of arum lilies on a pole. I stand up, offer my hand up for spurning.

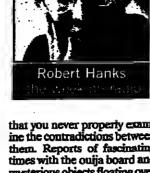
"Goodbye. It was interesting meeting you. And so nice to see Melissa looking so well." "Yes. She was very childish when I met her, bot she's growing up."

Car-sharer is having a miserable time. "The place is full of 23-year-olds," he sighs, "and they all think I'm ancient. By the way, did you know

erhaps it's irrational to worry about a rising tide of superstition – to com-

municate with Mars, converse with spirits, describe the horoscope, haruspicate or scry. all these are usual pastimes and drugs, and features of the press, and always have been. But there has been a splurge of the stuff just lately: the emharrassing credulity of Fortean TV, the sudden popularity of magazines about "unexplained phenomena", and Talk Radio's inauguration on Thursday of a Paranormal Day - it all combines to make the determinedly

rational mind a tad uneasy. To be fair, there was a nice tone of scepticism about much of Paranormal Day. But is there ever any justification for giving airtime to people like the "dream detective", who claims to predict acts of terrorism and delays in public transport through symbolically charged experiences in the land of Nod? There's also a danger inherent in the whole idea of swallowing "the Paranormal" in one big lump like this - hundling together all these strands of superstition (alien abductions. ghosts, ESP, vampires) means



The truth is out there. Probably

that you never properly exam-ine the contradictions between them. Reports of fascinating times with the ouija board and mysterious objects floating over Luton Airport become mutually supportive: science is the common enemy, and any attack oo it is a blow for an irrational worldview.

Of course, some people realise the flaws in this approach, and work from a different angle. One caller to Scott Chisholm proposed a sort of Grand Unification Theory of Loopiness, claiming that all manifestations of the paranormal, from UFOs to messages from the spirit world,

were evidence of beings from another dimension, who have set out to mystify and annoy us (presumably they don't have radio phone-ins in that dimension and occd other outlets). If we must have madness, a little method makes it more

But most people don't need a theoretical framework; nothing will persuade them out of their faith in the inadequacy of reason. My favourite was the man who phoned Tommy Boyd up with a story of mysterious footsteps in the night which could he insisted, only be explained by a ghost. Did he have a tape, Tommy asked. Yes, said the man, but playing it would be pointless since it didn't sound particularly like footsteps.

It's worth comparing Genesis Radio, a pirate station that sometimes interferes with the reggae pirate station that usually interferes with Radio 3 round our way. Genesis's agenda is based on hlack consciousness - most of the ads are for Saturday schools offering extra tuitinn in maths, English and "black history" ("Without history, we are lace. If that's so, may lost"). Last week I caught a maybe - it's worth it.

commentators bent oo dissing

Gianni Foreigner had to take

the chances as and when they

came. Motson got his attack

final whistle, when they brought oo a substitute to use

up time. "A typical time-wast-ing tactic," he explained. "Contineotals love to bring a

suh on in the stoppage period." It was simple, bold

strike, but Sky's Martin Tyler

equalised almost immediately

with the suggestion that some

Italian fans might have failed

said Tyler after the final whis-

tle. "Not too sure how far

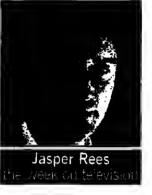
riveting lecture on Afrocentric history, which maiotained that, for example, the Library of Alexandria contained great histories of African civilisations, and that African rulers only sold their subjects as slaves tn the white man because slavery in Africa was actually a pretty becevolent institution.

Some of this was a useful and oecessary corrective to the excessively Eurocentric history most of us have learnt; about the same amount was patent nonsense; rather mnre was blind conjecture unsupported by evidence. What's interesting about this and about the nutters oo Talk Radio's Paranormal Day is that they reject academic authority: the careful accumulation of evidence and scrupulous reference to sources which are the foundation of science and histnry are chucked out of the window. Then again, you might argue that rejection of received ideas is the basis of all original thought. Perhaps the nutters, the guessers and the fanarics are the price we have to pay for a thoughtful. intellectually enquiring populace. If that's so, maybe - just

This is, quite literally, football war

owards the end of England v Italy (Sky Sports One, Wed), the English player Gary Neville politely invited a Sky cameraman on the touchline to "get out the fucking way". Well, we've all felt that way about Sky, haven't we? Especially the BBC, used to the best seat in the house until this flashy upstart sat in the row in froot. It becomes ever clearer that Sky is oot going to get out of the way, any more than the Italian defence was going to step aside for Alan Shearer and pals.

The Anglo-Italian eocounter was a good chance to see how old and new measure up: Sportsnight's slimline highlights vs satellite's fivehour overkillathon. And my goodness me, it's certainly no coincidence that both channels end in a one, because it was very much a case, I fancy, of Sky Sports One 1, BBC1 1. That's one own goal each. Sky introduced the female singer of the Italian national anthem stripping tenor from Clerkento let Ruod Gullit wear a top monogrammed with the letters RUUD. Accountants are still trying to work how much



money Gullit's new fashion line saved in free advertising. Afterwards, the England

the calamity of defeat. As John Motson had reminded us at kick-off, there were still 13 matches to come in this group. ("One hopes that's not unlucky for England," he added. Which, ironically, appears to have been the case. Very much so.) The BBC bave adopted a similar stance to England's: as Alessandro Bernardi, the they may lose individual battles in the field of broadcasting well who bad in fact been rights, but there's still all to vetoed by the Italian embassy the day before. And the BBC of course, a gigantic stack of ripped up their own rulebook ordure. The BBC have no more chance of winning this war than Italy do whenever they get involved in one. Ah yes. Jingoism. National-

the Tebbit test, which decrees that immigrants must support camp were keen to play down the new country rather that the old. "They'll go home happy,"

> they'll have to go home." In other areas of the cootest it was pretty even, with a tough old tussle to see who could come up with the wildest mispronunciation of "Gianfranco Zola". Tyler located a caesura Franklin Kennedy. Motsoo opted for the more traditional Gee O'Varney).

At half time, both sides paused to take stock. The first

ists in the gantry are pretty tightly marked these days, so half reminded Mntson of "a sandwich: the outside parts were pretty solid, but the filling, well, that was really supplied by Gee Anfranco Zola." This was prohably the metaphor of the night, and not oo the Italians just before the somethiog the Sky puodits were going to top. They were content to be simply worried, "I'm worried," said Ray Wilkins, who wasn't wearing a top monogrammed RAY. They have to wear dark suits on Sky, to convince a sceptical public that the channel takes its duties seriously, (Interesting, though, that its panel of experts have all recently made a pig's ear of management. What does this say about Sky?)

A South Bank Show (ITV. Sun) profile of Gilbert and George fouod England and Italy working in harmony. But where do the artists (or "artist", as Melv dubbed them) stand on the Tehhit test? Would Gilbert, the Italian one. have supported his country of origin or adopted homeland? inside Zola's Christian name And, in accordance with their ("Jan Franco"), as if his par-ents had been thinking of John does George copy him? Or does George copy him? Or does be copy George? Whatever, they would have loved cock-up: Gee Anfranco (cf the entertainment at Wembthe popular Irish opera Don ley, because it was pissing down, and England were crap. The artist likes working with both those materials.



Whatever happened to...

John De Lorean

wouldn't open when you stainless steel body that left a mass of fingerprints whenever you touched it, and an engine that made it go like a lorry. Fifteen years ago this month, the De Lorean car company collapsed, owing £40m What happened?

It was the car that had it able to syphon £9m off in all. Gull-winged doors that to a ski company in the reached the heights in States. But he kept asking put it in the garage; a for more money, so he must have needed it.

And the Labour governnet meeting on 26 July Ireland secretary Roy Lorean's credentials were sound odd with De Lorean much admired. A factory

ment seemed only too keen to give it At a cabi-1978 the then Northern Mason voiced his approval for the project. De

ideal. Two thousand new jobs in Northern Ireland appeared one way to transform the situation there. Ultimately, for the worse a report submitted to the government by McKinsey Associates called it "an extraordinarily risky venture". So they gave £ 47m.

set up by a man who had

General Motors, only to

be eased out, seemed

some more? The Conservative Party took over, but of health clubs opeoed in policy toward De Lorean stayed the same. He went back for more - £21m in July 1980, then £10m in February 1981. Forty seven million pounds later that year really seemed to be going a bit far. At last he was refused and the company went into immediate receivership.

Health, wealth and happiness De Lorean seemed

largely unaffected. A chain 1986, echoing his own per-sonal state. "I take good care of myself. That is why, in spite of all my stress, I've never had any problems." Pleas of poverty that resulted from receivers moving in in 1992 were curious bearing in mind his possession of a £4.5m penthouse, and so much art that the cleaners complained about the dusting. James Aufenast

ondon, A306 Ham

oth sides of the river.

be Al Great North Way Gloucestershire, M5 J17-20, Contraffo

ular rush-bour delays.

in use via the A5, A460 and MS4.

West Midlands, A34 Birming



General Situation and 5-Day Outlook:

A ridge of high pressure will move east across the country today, but a deep depression is going to follow from the west.

and western isles will get some sunshine while the wind drops quite light. There will, though, be wintry showers in the north and east. Northern Ireland should be dry with sunshine and patches of cloud, hut the wind is going to increase from the southeast later. Most of England and Wales will stay dry with sunshine and patchy cloud while the cool northwest hreeze disappears. However, wintry showers will affect north facing coasts.

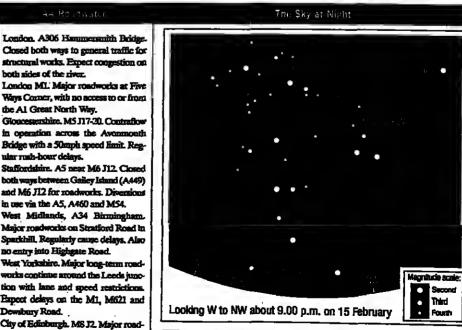
me, but more rain and strong winds will spread



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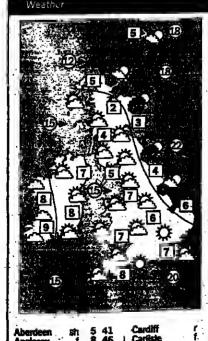
tion with lane and speed restrictions. Expect delays on the M1, M621 and Develoury Road City of Edinburgh. M8 J2. Marjor roadworks with lane closures on the roundabout at J2 (Newbridge Spur). Out and about with AA Roodwettel call 9336 401 for the latest local and national traffic haus. Source: The Automobile Association. Calle Theresed at 250 and 2 AM HT PM HT

7.10 6.3 19.55 6.0



he Mooo is waxing this week and will be full by next Saturday. Moonlight always makes it difficult to spot fainter stars, even from places that are normally free from bad light pollution. Only constellations defined by the hrightest of stars are at all apparent. One such noticeable star pattern, a oeat Wshape in the northern sky, belongs to Cassiopeia. Casobservers in the United Kingdom. That means it circles the

pole star in just under 24 hours, oever setting below the horizon. Best observing, though, is when it is not too low over the horizon. A sweep with binoculars from Cassiopeia to oeighbouring Perseus, should reveal the famous double star cluster ("h and chi Persei"). In darker skies you might just spot them with the naked eye. These clusters are about 7000 light siopeia is circumpolar for years away, but only 50 light years apart from each other. Jacqueline Mitton



Today, the whole of Scotland and the northern

Wet and windy weather is going to move east across the whole of the country on Sunday with some heavy rain and gales. However, hrighter weather and showers will follow from the west. Monday is going to provide some sunshine for a

day with a mix								pesday looks like being a bluste sunshine and showers. Wedne ery, but with rain in the south.							
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The big picture My Life

Sun 10.30pm BBC2

Bruce Joel Rubin, who scripted Ghost, again chose death as his subject when he made his directorial debut. It's about a man who finds he has terminal cancer as his wife is about to give birth to their first child - and therefore decides to shoot a video addressing the sprog. Yes, it's sentimental, and yes, it goes all mystical at the end. However it stars two of the best leading actors in Hollywood, Michael Keaton and Nicole Kidman. Good acting to the rescue, then. To a point.

Television preview

Recommended viewing this weekend

by Gerard Gilbert



Branded Sat 8.05pm BBC2 Gobble Sat 9pm BBC1 Windows on the World Sat 12.25am BBC2 On the Record Sun 12.30pm BBC1 The Natural World Sun 6pm BBC2

t looks like a tick – the sort of tick children get in their ad campaigns, but extends to the manufacturing side of the business. Nike are ootorious for hirabout the food chain – the lioo-eats-wildebeest contheir homework when they have answered a questioo correctly. In the trade it is called a "swoosh". To you and me, however, this affirmative symbol on the hats, shirt-sleeves, shorts, socks, shoes and, for all I know, the jock-straps of sports stars and fashioo victims means only one thing - Nike.

The rise and rise of this American sportswear operstico is the first subject in a new series called Branded (Sat BBC2), with future episodes encompassing the Levis label and Heinz 57 Varieties. The story begins with Reebock domicating the market catering to the 1980s aerobics boom. Suitably chastened, Nike's Phil Knight (personal worth: \$5 billion and rising) decided to embrace real sport and teamed aggressive advertising ("Just Do It", etc) with a canny choice in stars to carry his logo, from John McEnroe to Eric Cantona. Their advertising slogan for the Atlacta Olympics was "just taking part is for wimps". Nike herself, of course, was the Greek goddess of victory. We're not told whether she sports a swoosh.

Unfortunately, this tough attitude doesn't just stop

ing cheap Asian labour, at the moment in a country with an unattractive regime, Indonesia. Workers are paid less than \$3 a day, which is the going rate in Indonesia, to make pairs of trainers that will retail for anything up to £110 m this country. But that's cool,

because Michael Jordan wears them. Gobble (Sat BBC1) is the last of the Christmas leftovers, a postpooed satire about an outbreak of foodpoisoning which was deemed distasteful in the immediate aftermath of the E. coli deaths. Kevin Whateley plays a civil servant dispatched to investigate an outbreak of "mad turkey disease" - albeit not too quickly - and soon finding himself immersed in a BSE-type food scare. There's something depressing about the cosy cynicism at work here, especially disappointing giveo Ian Hislop's co-authorship. You'd expect some sharper revelations from the editor of Private Eye. Maybe the BBC lawyers are simply more nervous.

Wildlife programming is still the most dependable of TV genres; perhaps a bit too dependable. Wheo

tinuum that every landscape conceals. The landscape in this week's The Natural World (Sun BBC2) is the Grand Canyon, which, having oever visited Arizona. I had hitherto dismissed as a rather kitschy tourist destinatioo. As for the food chain, the battle between the tarantula hawk moth and the tarantula has to go down as the most riveting encounter of the week. John Humphrys versus John Gummer in On the Record (Sun BBC1) clearly has nothing on it. Windows on the World (Sat BBC2) is a new series

of international documentaries exploring aspects of music. Karl-Heinz Kafer's film, "Soogs of Seductioo", looks at the way music and songs can he used in political indoctrination, comparing Hitler Youth marching songs with skinheads slam-dancing at a neo-Nazi punk coocert. The creepiest meotal picture is coojured up by Frank Rennicke, a right-wing folk-singer – or should that be volk singer – who includes a lyric sheet for people to sing along with at home. Time to get the black shirt out of the attic, obviously.



The big match FA Cup: Leicester v Chelsea Sun 4pm BBC1

Well, now everybody knows just how good Gianfranco Zola (above) is and that Ruud Gullit is building a serious team down there on the Fulham Road, not just an old boys club of continental playboys. The possible departure of Vialli to Southampton just confirms this Impression. Not that Leicester City are anyone's mugs, and Chelsea are not the world's best travellers. Zola and De Matteo will also be tired from his exertions on the sapping Wembley turf. A tight one.

Saturday television and radio

BBC 1

7.00 Harry and the Hendersons (3811844).
7.25 News; Weather (4658680).
7.30 Children's BBC: Felix the Cat (2712115). 7.45
Phantom 2040 (1693979). 8.10 The Real
Adventures of Jonny Quest (7041080). 8.35 The
Flintstones (9168573).

 9.00 Live and Kicking. Explorer 5ir Ranulph Flennes, and popsters from Alisha's Attic are drafted in to divert the young 'uns (98495134). 12.12 Weather (6394283).

12.12 Weather (6394283).
12.15 Grandstand (S) (6393554). 12.20 Football Focus (6746115). 1.00 News (7) (14259825). 1.05 Racing from Chepstow: the 1.15 race (15907660). 1.25 Skiing: Highlights of the women's downhill from Sestriere in Italy (92234641). 1.40 Racing from Chepstow: the 1.45 race (98208399). 1.55 Rugby Union: preview of today's Five Nations matches (98214950). 2.10 Racing from Chepstow: the 2.15 race (71566432). 2.25 Rugby Union: 2.15 race (71566432). 2.25 Rugby Union: Ireland v England, live coverage from Landsdowne Road, Kick-off is at 3pm (64944573), 4.40 Final Score (2910757). 5.00 Rugby Union: Highlights of France v Wales (4196).

5.30 News, Weather (7) (900028). 5.40 Regional News and Weather (122689). 5.45 The Simpsons. Homer's boss is told to clean up his

nuclear plant when a three-eyed fish is discovered in a local river (S)(T) (488221). 6.10 The New Adventures of Superman (S)(474825). 6.50 Noel's House Party. GMTV presenter Ross Kelly earns a Gotcha (does one suppose that in C-list celeb land, not to have won a Gotcha is some

celeb land, not to have won a Gotcha is some terrible sharner?). Other guests include Edward Woodward and Emlyn Hughes (S) (906009).

7.50 The National Lottery Live. Katrina and the Waves (remember them?), the first of the four finalists hoping to be our entry in this year's Eurovision Song Contest, get their try-out. Plus, Right Sald Fred (remember them?) start the draw (S)(7)

8.10 Casualty. Kate threatened by a drunk (313221).

9.00 Gobble. See Preview, above (T).(618799).
10.15 News and Sport, Weather (T) (725486).
10.35 Match of the Day – the Road to Wernbley FA Cup Fifth Round. Highlights from two of the day's key FA Cup ties, with Manchester City v Middlesbrough and Wimbledon v QPR looking like the pick of the round (Leicester v Chelsea is on live on 8BC1 tomorrow) (S)(T) (4490486).

11.45 The Frank Skinner Show (R)(S)(T) (134467). op of the Pops (S)(T) (34005

12.45 ETE Dancers (Herbert Ross 1987 U.5). Terrifically bad dance melodrama with Mikhail Baryshnikov as an international ballet star and womaniser who becomes infatuated with an American teenager he has spotted in a bar and casts her in his production of Giselle. They dance; they kiss; he learns not to put it about so much (110332). 2.20 Weather (5393264). To 2.25am.

BBC2

6.20 Open University: The York Mystery Plays (6604221), 6.45 Motion: Newton's Laws (5673825), 7.10 Panel Painting (3800738). 7.35 Traps - and How to Get Out of Them (1662009). 8.00 Open Saturday (402283). 10.30 Michael Berry's Choice Cuts (R) (6923347). 10.40 Arctic Fox. Profile of one of the few predatory animals to inhabit the tundra (R) (2315221). 11.05 Orca, King of the Sea. Wildlife film about killer whales (R) (3385931).

11.30 An Old Spanish Onion. Musical short from 1934, set in California of the 1840s (5294202). 11.50 Test Dames (Ray Enright 1934 US). Wealthy puritan Ezra Ounce and his lame-brained cousin Horace try to put the brakes on a new Broadway

production staged by their distant relative Jimmy Higgers In this cornedy-heavy Busby Berkeley-choreographed musical starring Joan Blondell, Dick Powell and Ruby Keeler (4673689). .20 Film 97 with Barry Norman (S)(T) (24509399). 1.50 INEW Western Union (Fritz Lang 1941 US), Lang's surprisingly lusty American frontier epic with Randolph Scott, Dean Jagger and others finding themselves stringing telegraph lines between Omaha and Salt Lake City in the 1860s, Virginia City and Carter in the 1860s of the 18

Gilmore is on brow-mopping duty (18787370). 3.25 IIIMI The Last Wagon (Delmer Daves 1956 US). Tough and suspenseful western in which condemned killer Richard Widmark, on his way to be hanged, turns hero in his defence of a wagon train from whooping Apaches (42673283). 5.00 TOTP 2 (S) (9630080). 5.45 The Readiness is All – the Filming of Hamlet.

5.45 The Readeness is All — the Hamiling of Hamilet. Kenneth Branagh at work (5)(T) (585370).
6.25 Ski Sunday Special. Highlights of the women's downhill from Sestriere in Italy (S) (479009).
6.55 News and Sport, Weather (T) (800115).
7.10 Correspondent. A new series opens with a report on an expedition to the Amazon to look for some of the world's last uncontacted tribes. Plus, an investigation

world's last uncontracted trades. Prus, an investigation into the pright of Red Army defectors and their treatment on their return to Russia (S/339573).

7.55 What the Papers Say. David Rose of the Observer reviews the press (SJ (275825).

8.05 Branded, See Preview, above (675573).

8.45 Close Up (R)(S) (877592). 9.00 Till Death Us Do Part (R) (6399).

9.30 Nostromo. 3/4. The ongoing Joseph Conrad adaptation finds Nostromo and Decoud all at sea with their boat-load of silver (S)(T) (57370). 11.00 Video Fool for Love. Film autobiography by spent the last 10 years recording his life with a hand-held camera, portraying his turnuituous love-life in intimate detail through interviews with his former girlfriends (S)(I) (755660).

12.25 Windows on the World. See Preview, Shove (7493887).

1.30 Global VideoBytes (Followed by Weatherview) (7933326). To 1.55am.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV: 6.00 News. 6.10 Mole in the Hole. 6.30 Professor Bubble. 6.50 Bug Alert 7.15 Dragonflyz. 7.45 Disnay's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.55 Gargoyles (1371467).

9.25 Scratchy and Co. Guests are actor Tim Whitnall and the Smurfettes (S) (25876757).

11.30 The Chart Show (S) (19931).

12.30 Fresh. Profile of Tomato, a design collective set up in the early 1990s (17405).

1.00 News, Weather (T) (14277221).

1.05 London Weekend Today (T) (14276592).

1.10 Signa Carry On Henry (Gereld Thomas 1970 UK). The boys and girls show what they think of the Richard Burton costume epic Anne of a Thousand Days in this spoof of that film, starring 5id James as Henry VIII and Joen 5ims as his garlic-bresthed wife Marie de Normandy (95527318).

2.55 Airwolf (R) (1171283).

3.50 seaGuest DSV (S)(T) (2337365).

4.45 News, Sports Results, Weather (T) (2904196).

5.05 London Weekend Tonight (T) (5295689).

5.20 Clueless. Cher attempts to write a poem to Impress a cute substitute teacher (S)(T) (1449486).

5.50 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch (S)(T) (470202).

6.15 You Bet! 5purs footballer Teddy Sheringham kills a bit of time (he's injured) by joining EastEnders star Wendy Richard and host Darren Day for another round of tiresome stunts and dares (S)(285825).

7.15 Blind Date (S)(T) (281009).

8.15 Family Fortunes (S)(T) (144844).

8.45 ITN News, Weather, Lottery Result (T) (871318).

9.00 ISSM Another Stakeout (John Badham 1993 US). The sequel to the enjoyable 1987 buddy-buddy cop-movie-cum-mmantio-farce, Stakeout, finds Seattle detective Richard Dreyfuss teaming up again with Emillo Estevez. This time they are joined by female cop Rosle O'Donnell (and her dog) as they pretend to be a normal family and move in next door to a fugitive federal witness (5) (3318).

by female cop Rosie O'Donnell (and her dog) as they pretend to be a normal family and move in next door to a fugitive federal witness (5) (3318).

11.00 Telem Dead Poets Society (Feter Weir 1989 US). Robin Williams gives one of his best performances to date as the unconventional new English teacher at an elite New England boys academy. His methods unleash creative impulses in the pupils – but these seeds of rebellion (not for nothing is the year 1959) have unintended, far-reaching effects. Ethan Hawke is the only one of the young actors on show to have gone on to a major adult Hollywood career (64818950).

1.20 Telew Wheops Apocatypse (Tom Bussmann 1987)

1.20 ESS Whoops Apocalypse (Tom Bussmann 1987 UK). The cult 1982 post-apocalyptic TV comedy series, brought sluggishly and rather too conventionally to the screen. New US president Loretta Swit is horrified to learn that a left-wing Central American dictator has invaded the British colony of Santa Maya. UK Prime Minister Peter Cook sends a task force and the world stands on the brink of nuclear destruction – if not great cornedy. Rik Mayall co-stars (818121).

3.00 El News Review (6749535).

3.45 Club Nation (R) (2507158). 4.40 ITV Sport Classics (45346968). 5.05 Coach (S) (3256719). 5.30 News (82245). To 6.00am.

Channel 4

6.00 Sesame Street (R) (40405). 7.00 Dumb and Dumber (S) (56979). 7.30 Dennis (R) (2705825). 7.45 First Edition (R)(S) (2793080).

 S.00 Transworld Sport (S) (89467).
 9.00 Morning Line. The day's horse racing (S) (72592).
 10.00 Gazzetta Football Itafia. Serie A magazine with James Richardson giving the Italian view of this week's crucial World Cup qualifier (24370).
 11.00 NBA 24/7. American basketball action featuring Orlando Magic v the Detroit Pistons (S) (44134).
 12.00 Rawhide (9785592).
 13.55 Effect Transcript of the Coddon Condon (Delange). 8.00 Transworld Sport (S) (89467).

12.55 Fast Treasure of the Golden Condor (Delmer Daves 1953 US). One-time Olympic fencer Cornel Wilde was at home with the swashbuckler – even this moderate, early Technicolor effort about a French nobleman ousted from his estates by his

French nobleman ousted from his estates by his wicked uncta and going to sea in search of South American treasure (T) (30549202).

2.40 Charunel 4 Racing: Coverage from Newcastle (N) and Warwick (W): the 3.00 Branding House Handicap Chase (N), 3.20 Michael Page Group Kingmaker Novices's Chase (W), 3.35 Newcastle Novices' Chase, 3.55 Questor International Novices's Trial Hurdle (W), 4.10 Tote Eider Handicap Chase (N), 4.30 Michael Page Finance Handicap Chase (W) and 4.45 Gosforth Handicap

Hurdle (N) (S) (79647080).

5.05 Brookside Omuribus (R)(S)(T) (8692554).

6.30 Right to Reply (S)(T) (738).

7.00 A Week in Politics (S) (2825).

8.00 Fragile Kingdoms. Focus on a trio of American children living an extraordinary life deep in the Ituri Forest of Zaire, where their parents are dedicating their lives to studying forest animals and plants with the help of the Bambuti pygmies (S) (1573).

9.00 Last Chance Lottery. Patrick Kielty celebrates more

of life's losers (S) (8009). 10.00 Eurotrash. Amsterdam's flushing dog toilets,

reformed Italian porn star, La Cicciolina, and two afternative debt collectors (R)(S) (72844).

10.30 The Show. Cornedian Bob Mills does the before, during and after on another batch of celebrity guests (4493573). 11.35 Hill Street Blues. The President's planned visit to

Funilo's precinct calls for the negotiation of a gang treaty (R)(T) (142757).

12.35 TV Pizza. Transsexual nuns and colonic impation amuse Laura Kightlinger in her latest dlp into American television culture (8807968). 1.20 The Girlie Show (S) (5110158). 1.50 Ricki Lake (R)(S)(T) (5558264).

2.35 Beavis and Butt-Head (R)(S) (9853719). 3.00 Flava. From last night (S) (50719). 3.30 Bless This House (R)(S) (60133806).

3.55 Film Night (R)(S) (60045697). 4.25 Lifers' Rap. Documentary about an American maximum-security prison (R) (75743351). 4.50 The White Room. With Iggy Pop, Nick Cave and PJ Harvey (R)(S) (2608535). To 5.50am.

ITV/Regions

MGLIA
As London except: 12.30-L.00pm Movies, Garnes and
Videos (17405). 1.10 Champions of the Future
(24599912). 140 World of Wonder (20698573). 2.10
Bitywatch (9120134). 3.00-4.45 Films Carry On up
the Jurgle (88552825). 11.00 Films Dead Poets So-ciety (64809202). 1.25 Carnel (nowledge (5245061).
2.25 Films. Rockabye (171210). 4.05 Movie Club (75732245). 4.30 Recollections (39398351). 4.40-5.30am Heiter Stetter (7733448).

CSTRM.

As London except: 12.30-1.00am Premiere 1174051,
1.10 Champions of the Future (24599912). E4th
Movies, Games and Videos (7925134), 2.15-3.50 Filling
Student: Exchange: (923318), 5.05 Central News,
(9517080), 5.10-5.20 Central Match: Goals Extra
(7168660), 3.45-5.30am Jobfinder (800662).

HTV VINLES
As London except: 12.30-1.00am Movies, Games and Videos (17405). 1.10 World of Wonder (24516689). 1.35 Shurtunasters (1941221). 2.15 Fam: Disnity's Napoleon and Samantha (741641). 3.55-4.45 Baywatch (2953950). 11.00 Film: Dead Poets Society (64809202). 1.25 Camal Knowledge (5245061). 2.25 Film: Rockabye (71210). 4.05 Collina and Macorie's Movie Club (75732245). 4.30 Recollections (39398351). 4.40-5.30am Helter Sketter (7733448).

As HTV Wales meapt: 1.10pm Sportsweek (1261028). 1.45 Film: Napoleon and Sarmantha (94705573). 3.25 Baywatch (4040888). 4.15-4.45pm The List (870757).

MERIDIAN
As London except: 12.30-1.00pm Movies, Games and Videos (17405). 1.10 Sturmesters (6311329). 2.00 Carbon (93166216). 2.10 Baywatch (7862202). 3.05-4.45 Film: Carry On up the Jungle (20606757). 11.00 Film: Dead Poets Society (64809202). 1.25 Camal Knowledge (5245061). 2.25 Film: Rocketye (171210). 4.05 Collins and Maconle's Movie Club (75732245). 4.30 Recollections (39398951). 4.40-5.30am Helter Skelter (7733448). MEZICOBNING .

WESTCORNIES
At Landon except: 12.30-1.00pm Movies, Garnes and Videos (17405), 1.10 Films: A French Mistress (96739950), 2.50-3.50 Ainvoll (6243825), 11.00 Films: Deed Poets Society (64809202), 1.25 Carnal Knowledge (5245061), 2.25 Films Racketye (771210), 4.05 Collins and Maconle's Movie Club (75732245), 4.30 Recollections (39398351), 4.40-5.30am Helter (7733448),

YORSSHRE
As London succept: 12,30-1,00pm, Movies, Games and Videos (17405). 1.10 Airwolf (8170863). 2.05 Film: The Sandwich Man (477554). 3.50-4.45 Baywatch (2337365). 5.10-5.20 Socretine (7168660). 1.20 In Bed with Medianer (5112516). 1.50 Film: The Hostage (4890055). 3.20 Furmy Business (62358332). 3.50 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (60048784). 4.20 Murder, She Wrote (2224603). 5.10-5.30am Sound Bites (3956968).

54C
As C4 excepts 10.00am Board Stupid (12383), 10.3011.00 New Gamesmaster (80863), 12.00 Moneywitch
(71115), 12.30 Encounters (18863), 13.00 Rygisi-Picaric
V Cymru (82504860), 3.35-5.05 Racing (7071776),
6.30 Travelog (738), 7.00 Newyddion a Chwaraeon
(856554), 7.15 Codir To (9000252), 8.20 Hei,
Straeon (454405), 8.50 Pengell (412516), 9.25 Last
Chance Lottery (1415573), 10.30 The Show (52486),
11.30 Brass Eye (195009), 12.05-12.35 Fortean TV
(1493210), 4.50-5.45am The White Room (7648325).

Radio

Radio 1

(97.5-99 원배상 FM) 7.00am Claire Sturgess 10.00 Dave Pearce 1.00 Jo Whiley 4.00 John Peel 7.00 Oave Pearce Lovegroove Dance Party 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 The Radio 1 Reggae Dancehall Nita 2.00 Essential Mix - Little Louia Vega 4.00-7.00am Charlia Jordan

Radio 2 138-91.2MH; FMT

6.00am Mo Outta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright 1.00 The Monkhouse Archive 1.30 To the Manor Born 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Nick Barra-clough 5.00 The Thing about Harry 6.00 Gloria Estefan in Con-cert 7.00 Follies. See Choice, above. 10.00 Scotching the Myths 12.05 Charles Nove 4.00 - 7.00am Mo Outta Radio 3

300 32 4Mbt FM)

6.55am Weathar; News 7.00 Record Review. With Anthony Burton. 9.00 Building a Library. Edward

Seckerson compares the availabla recordings of Mahler's

Das Lied von der Erde.

10.15 Record Release. 11.15 Reissues. Patrick O'Connor discovers some operatic trea-sures on the Walhall label. 12.00 Private Passions. Another chance to hear Michael Re

ley's conversation with writer. broadcaster and theatre direc tor Or Jonathan Miller. (R) 1.00 The Power and the Glory Four programmes in which George Pattison, Dean of Chapel at King's College, Cambridge, considers the relation-ships between artist, church

patron and public, 1.15 News; Vintage Years. 3.15 Youth Orchestras of the World 5.00 Jazz Record Requests, Geoffrey Smith introduces another selection of vibrant and varied jazz tracks chosen by listeners. 5.45 Music Matters

6.30 Live from the Met: Un ballo In maschera. Verdi's story of deception and murder. Luciano Pavarotti (tenor) stars as the embattled King Gustav III of Sweden, Deborah Vorgt (sopra-no) as Amelia, the object of his affection, and Juan Pons Ibani tone) as Anckarstroem, the long's best friend. 7.25 The Masks behind the

maschera is about disguise

Choice

A good day for musicals: Radio 2 story behind Sondheim's classic musical. Meanwhile, Robert Wise, director of "West Side Story" and of Close Ups (6.50pm R4).

Michael Billington and guests explore this theme. 7.45 Un ballo in maschera, Act 2 8.20 The Met Opera Quiz. Stephen Biler invites opera ex perts Will Crutchfield and Brian Zeger to tackle questions sent in by listeners. 8.50 Un ballo in maschera, Act 3

10.00 Apocalypse Now and Then, Iwan Russell-Jones talks to Californian preacher Irving Baxter, the editor of End Times abreast of world events from an apocalypic perspective. 10.25 Meditations. Hindemith:

Meditation for viola and plano. Tcharkovsky: Meditation. 10.45 Impressions. Brian Morton and Alyn Shipton Introduce a specially recorded session by drummer Steve Arguelles with French group the Recyclers, 12.30 First Bass, Bass player Ray Brown talks to Alyn Ship ton about a career that has included collaborations with almost all the Jazz glants. (R) 1.00 - 4.40am Through the Night.

Radio 4 FM (92.4-94 644tz FM) 6.00am News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.50 Prayer for the Day 6.55 Weather 7.00 Today 8.58 Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Sport on 4 9.30 Breakaway 10.00 News; Loose Ends 11.00 News; The Week in West minster, With Peter Riddell 12.00 Money Box 12.25 Just a Minute 12.55 Weather 1.00 News 1.10 Any Questions? 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Any Answers? (0171) 580 4444

2.30 Saturday Playhouse: The

rounds up the usual suspects - Julia McKenzie, Denis Quilley, Ron Moody - for Follies (7pm R2, left), the "The Sound of Music", is the subject

Blind Fiddler of Glenaduach. By Marie Jones. 4.00 News: That's History. Gerry Northam explains how listed status may be the worst thing that can happen to property. 4.30 Science Now 5.00 File on 4. Jonathan Rugma

examines the military build up on Cyprus and the deteriora-tion in relations between Greek and Turkish communities. 5.40 See it My Way. Peter White examines and often explodes myths about blindness.

myths about blindness.
5.50 5hipping Forecast
5.55 Weather
6.00 5ix O'Clock News
6.25 Week Ending
6.50 Close Ups. Nigel Andrews
talks to double Oscar winner
Robert Wise, who edited Citizen
Kane, and changed the face of
the musical by directing both
West Side Story and The Sound
of Music. See Choice, above.
7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature.

7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. Richard Coles talks to novelists Isabel Allende and Jayne Anne Phillips about their respective styles. He finds some intriguing burbing truths.

7.50 On These Days. A look back at some of the events that took place 50 years ago this week. 8.50 Saturday Night Theatre: Young PC. In the linal part, a threatening phone call tests Paula's integrity and her com-mitment to the police force.

With Julia Ford. (R)
9.35 Classics with Kay
9.50 Ten to Ten. Lavinia Byrne
takes a personal view of Lent. 9.59 Weather 10.00 News
10.15 Wallis - the Life and Legends of Wallis Simpson, Wallis begins to understand what the Inevitable marriage to the ex-King will mean. (R)

11.15 Love Thang. Some of Britain's best black poets per-form their work live and reveal what makes them write about

11.45 Aasthete's Foot. Scottish writer John McKay concludes his series of comic reflections on life. (R) 12.00 News 12.30 The Late Story: Needy. By

Maeve Binchy. 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service 5.50 Inshore Forecast 5.51 Belts on Sunday 5.55 - 6.00am Shipping Forecast

Radio 4 I W (1984): 139 9.35 - 11.45am Test Match Special 12.20 - 4.30am Test Match Special

Radio 5 023 909Hz 100

6.00am Dirty Tackla 6.30 Brian Hayas at Braakfast 9.00 Weekend 11.00 Top Gaar 11.30 The Game's Up 12.00 Baker and Keiby Upfront 1.00 Sport on Five. Footbell: FA Cup fifth-round and Scottish Cup fourth-round matches. News of all the goals. Rugby Union: third round of matches in the Five Nations Championship: Ireland v England at Lansdowna Road and France v Wales in Paris 5.00 Sports Report. 6.06 Stx-0-5ix 8.00 The National Lottery Oraw 8.05 The Treatment 9.00 Dallyn UK 10.00 Brief Lives 10.30 Asian Perspective 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00 Up All Night 5.00 - 6.00am

Classic FM (100.0-10) Step Pio 6.00am Sarah Ward 9.00 Count-down 12.00 Gardening Forum 1.00 Alan Mann 4.00 Jane Markham 7.00 Travel Gulde 8.00 Concert 10.00 Classic Quiz 12.00 Andre Leon 4.00 Travel Guide

6.00am Janey Lee Grace 2.00 Russ 'n' Jono's Greatest Hits 10.00 Jeremy Clark 2.00 Album Lynn Parsons 10.00 Robin Banks 2.00 - 6.00am Howard Pearce

5.00 - 6.00am Michael Fanstone Virgio Radio (1215, 1197-12600th WW 105.8Mth FND

World Service (198MF (M) 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Just a Minute 2.00 Newsday 2.30 People and Politics 3,00 World News 3,15 Sports Roundup 3,30 Music Review 4,00 Newsdesk 4,30 Short Story 4,45 On the Move 5,00 Newsday 5,30 -

Satellite

7.00 Orson and Olivia (78115). 7.30 Free Willy (80950). 8.00 Young Indi-ana Jones Chronicles (34931). 9.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (94738). 10.00 Quantum Leap (85134), 11.00 Star Trek (66370), 12.00 Wrestling (49028), 1.00 Wrestling (58776), 2.00 Kung Fu the Legend Continues (39738). 3.00 Star Trak: Deep Space Nine (58202). 4.00 Star Treic Voyager (44009). 5.00 Hil Mix (1405). 6.00 Kung Fu-the Legend Continues (38912). 7.00 the Legand Continues (38912), 7.00 Hercules: the Legandary Journeys (71641), 8.00 Coppers (8554), 8.30 Cops I (7689), 9.00 Cops II (66221), 9.30 Cop Files (40757), 10.00 Law and Order (70912), 11.00 Red Shoe Diaries (45738), 11.30 The Movie Show (50221), 12.00 LAPD (27332), 12.30 The Lucy Show (15055), 1.00 Dream On (71871), 1.30 Smouldering Lust (90448). 1.30 Smouldering Lust (90448). 2.00 - 6.00 Hit Mix (8042852).

347 2 7.00 Severty Hillis, 90210 (5694592). 8.00 Merose Place (5670912). 9.00 Pacific Drive (5690776). 10.00 Tales from the (36907/6), 10.00 lates from the Crypt (5641318), 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (5627738), 11.00 Stand and Deliver (4121825), 11.30 Stand and Deliver (9958757), 12.00 5.00 Hit Mix Long Play (7456887).

MOVIE CHAPTE. 6.00 Seventh Heaven (1937) (16196). 8.00 Where the Red Fern Grows (1974) (44660). 10.00 Four Jills in a Jeep (1944) (62979). 12.00 Mayeric (1994) (25584047). 2.15 Johnny's Girl (1995) (385009). 4.00 Silence of Adultery (1995) (4979). 6.00 Angel Flight Down (1996) (72370). 8.00 Miami Rhapsody (1995) (84115). 10.00 Nell (1994) (414757). 11.55 Manolith Hostages (1994) (569719). 3.10 The Haunting of List (1995) (6414968). 4.40 - 6.10 Silence of Adultery (1995) (4004806).

STY MOVES 6.00 Fury at Smugglers' Bay (1960) (18554), 8.00 The Bellboy (1960) (53318), 10.00 Sliver Streek (1976) (31009), 12.00 The Tin Soldier (1995) (36641), 2.00 Lost in Yonkers (1993) (94592). 4.00 War of the Buttons (1994) (3009). 6.00 Cops and Robbersons (1994) (81028). 8.00 Terminal Velocity (1994) (86573), 10.00 Hostile Force (1996) (951863), 11.40 Indepent Behaviour (1993) (339047), 1.15 The Bait (1995) (940055), 3.10 The River Rat (1984) (6416326 6.00 Union Station (1950) r Rat (1984) (6416326). 4,40 -

* **

SEX MONES BOID 84.00 Henry V (1989) (28575844). 8.20 Bloodhounds of Broadway (1989) (27992738). 10.00 Fatal Beauty (1987) (4284689). 11.45 The Taking of Pelham 123 (1974) (3640931), 1.30 Spyrnaker: the Secret Life of Ian Fleming (1991) (8855245), 3.10 - 5.10 The Long Hot Summer (1958) (2136054).

SY SPORTS I-7.00 World Sport Special (23689).
7.00 World Sport Special (23689).
8.30 Recing News (36689). 9.00 Cricket New Zealand v England - Third Test (79370). 11.00 Pro Surfing (11844).
12.00 Sports Saturday (7551399).
6.00 International Rugby Union (57221). 7.30 - 4.30 Cricket New Zealand v England (5292486).

SIXT SPORTS 2 7.00 Soccer AM (6213318). 11.00 Golf: Dimension Data Pro-Am (6765028). 4.00 Criclet New Zealand (8750/28), 4.00 Cricker New Zesand V England - Third Test (460/2196), 6.00 FA Cup Fifth-Round Special (95760/28), 7.30 Spanish Football (60/23/20/2), 9.30 International Rugby Union (81/56863), 11.00 · 1.00 Golf: Dimension Data Pro-Am (2052134).

SEY SPORTS 3 12.00 Survival of the Fittest (82100844). 12.30 UK Skiff Sailing (85390592). 1.00 World Motor Sport (11977573), 5.00 Survival of the Fittest (56830312), 5.30 Rebel Sports (21211825), 6.00 Inside the PGA Tour (21218738). 6.30 ke Hockey (99756080), 9.00 Golf Hawaiian Open (22788486). 11.00 Rebal Sports (65486592), 11.30 -12.00 UK Skiff Saiting (97262047).

6.00 Agony 6.30 Fashion 7.00 Revelations 7.30 Fate and Fortune 8.00 Why Files? 8.30 Video Box 9.00 Psychic Pets 9.30 Fashion 10.00 Reve tions 10.30 Agony 11.00 Psychic Pets 11.30 Fate and Fortune 12.00 Gall's Campus Capers 12.30 Wity Files?
1.00 Looking for Love 1.30 Psychic Pets 2.00 Fastiton 2.30 Agony 3.00 Fate and Fortune 3.30 Pin Money 4.00 Sport Live 5.00 Agony 5.30 Eva's Seventies Pop Show 6.00 Fash-ion 6.30 Sports Live 7.00 Pln Money 7.30 Revelations 8.00 Psychic Pets 7.30 reversions 8.00 Psychic Pets 8.30 Agony 9.00 Handy Hurks, Pash-ion 9.30 Looking for Love 9.45 Bot-tom Line 10.00 Topless Darts on fee-Sport Live 10.30 Stand-Up Live 11.00 Topless Darts on Ice, Fate and Fortune 11.30 Sex Show 11.55 Exotica Erotica 12.30 Kiss TV 1.30 Shopping 2.00 Sex Show 2.30 Stand-Up Live 3.00 Revelations 3.30 Why File 4.00 Sex Show 4.30 Pln Money 5.00 Sport Live 5.30 - 6.00 Shopping

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Rifkind faces wall of silence from Qian

chard Lloyd Parry PROOFS ...

Foreign Secretary, Malcolm kind, and the Chinese Forn Minister, Qian Qichen, nerday had what will almost tainly be their last face to e meeting before the hand er of Hong Kong, but failed make any significant progress resolving anxieties about the ure of the colony under Chite rule.

Mr Rifkind said he "detecta defensiveness with regard the human rights question",
d when the British side raised occurs about the imprison-int of dissidents in China, and tsuppression of Tibetan Budists. Mr Qian "chose not to pond".
The one-and-a-balf-

hrmeeting took place on the rgins of a conference of ian and European leaders in gapore, and this evening t Foreign Secretary will travan to Hong Kong at a more The the Government and the ony. Mr Rifkind may yet have that short his visit if he is summed home by the Conservat whips for a Commons vote.

n Hong Kong, meanwhile, mocratic politicians and orgisations including the Hong ing Bar Association have exussed outrage at recommendons by the Peking-backed paratory Committee which uld repeal human rights grantees. These are important matters

sh could do grave damage Hong Kong, said Mr kind "I have expressed our w that these measures are i w foolish and very mwise," British official suggested eier in the week that the Chi-: in the might be persuaded to sten bk, and that there was, still sething to play for".

"We have seen in the past that a number of issues raised at meetings of this kind sometimes do not get an immediate response, but do have an impact on Chinese policy over the weeks and months thereafter," said Mr Rifkind. "I can't be certain that will apply in this case but the exercise has been useful in the past and I hope it will be on this occasion."

A spokesman for Mr. Qian, however, denied that such matters were up for negotiation. This is a closed matter so there is no defensiveness what-

The one glimpse of a concession came in a discussion of the legislative body which will eventually be formed underthe Chinese during 1998. Many in Hong Kong have assumed that this would be similar to the recently elected Provisional Legislature - a tame and undemocratic body, composed only of individuals sympathetic to Peking. Mr Qian said during the meeting, however, that anyone would be allowed to stand for election to it including, by implication, some of Peking's harshest critics in the Democ-

Mr Rifkind has tried to use the Singapore meetings to build up international pressure on China not to interfere with Hong Kong after its reversion at the end of June. The French, Japanese and German foreign ministers have all raised the subects in bilateral meetings with Mr Oian, and British sources speak of "an insurance policy in the event of a crackriown af-

"After 30 June, we will not be the sovereign power," said a se-nior source, "We can't send a genboat or a task force and our means of leverage are limited but one of them is international pressure."



Winning Image: A poignant image of a man finding the body of his brother, who had been taken hostage by Chechen rebels, was chosen for second prize in the news spot category at this year's World Press Photo awards in Amsterdam

Photograph: Anatoly Maltsev/AP

N Korea slaps travel ban on officials

Richard Lloyd Parry Singapore

Three days after the defection of one of its most senior cadres, North Korea has banned officials from travelling abroad, which will further set back efforts to bring peace to the Korean peninsula.

Despite food and fuel shortages, the atmosphere in Prougyang was calm, diplomats and United Nations officials ter Hong Kong's reversion. said. Celebrations for the 55th birthday of the "Dear Leader", Kim Jong II, will go ahead as planned this weekend but the cancellation of several official trips suggests a battening down of hatches af-ter the defection of Hwang Jang Yop, a senior adviser to Mr Kim.

Western officials in Pyongyang said North Korean officials travelling to Peking were reportedly ordered off. their train just before the Chinese border, and a foreign ministry delegation responsible for reconstruction of areas damaged by floods also had overseas travel plans cancelled. "It's got to be a hell of shock, to have someone of that acmiority and stature go walkabout," said a Western diplomat in Seoul yesterday. They must have to figure that if they

can't trust him, who can they trust?"

The Chinese Foreign Minister, Qian
Qichen, met his South Korean comterpart, You Chong Ha, in Singapore yes-terday to discuss the defection of Mr Hwang, who turned up at Seoul's embassy in Peking last Wednesday with a North Korean businessman. The defection leaves the Chinese in the position of having to choose between their Cold War comrades and their business nertners in the South.

South Korea has asked to take Mr Hwang to Seoul, where he is expected to be able to provide naprecedented in-sights into the military, economic and political secrets of Pyongyang. But Pyngyang insists he has been kidnapped by the South, and demanded his return.

The drama and the apparent North Korean travel ban have imperilled an initiative to hold peace talks with China, the United States and the Koreas. A preparatory briefing was scheduled for not good."

This Spring, join us on a cultural

and art. In addition to the great cities of

Moscow and St Petersburg, we will cruise

a celebration of Ku

the mighty Volga which for

We will journey

Dmitri, the last son of Ivan the Terrible was

opera Boris Godunos.

murdered here, an event which formed the background to Pushkin's drame and Mussorgaky's

DAY 5 Kostroma Before the Revolution, Kostro

was a great centre of the arts and bome to the

Romanovs and Codunova. Today it is one of the loveliest cities of the Colden Ring. See the historic

centre including the lpatyersky Monastery and drive to nearby Plyos, a charming Volga town where lance Levitan, perhaps the best of all Volga landscape painters produced his best work. Visit the gallery before returning to kostroma.

DAY 6 Yaroslavi A city of cupoles and spores where aristocratic classicism blends with typical Russian

mercustile colour crossing a city of great interest. Prince Andrei Bolkonsky from Tolstoy's War and

spez See the 17th century church of Elijah

Peace' died here and this was also the site of Russia's first National Theatre and first proving

the Prophet and explore its aucient streets.

centuries has shaped and

influenced the artistic

through the Cities of

wast forested lands of

Karelia, enjoying the

the Golden Ring to the

minds of Russians.

sage through the Russian heartland on

son music, literature

last month but the defection makes it less likely than ever that Pyongyang will be coaxed out of its diplomatic cocoon. More alarmingly, the crisis may jeop-

rdise a programme aimed at definsing North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons programme. Work was due to begin soon on building light-water re-actors to replace older Soviet models but

these plans are in question too. Mr Kim's birthday is the greatest of Korea's national holidays. "I have been here during two or three of these crises before," said a UN official in Pyongyang "and the city is always calm. But we have food shortages, power cuts and only a few hours' water a day. The outlook is

a guest lecturer who will be joined by local English speaking guides and experts

appeal to those who are looking for

Briton faces judge in spy case

Jan McGirk New Delhi

The travails of Peter Bleach continue in Calcutta. The Yorkshire gunrunner, who says that he was working undercover for British in-telligence when he arranged a night parachuse drop of weapons over rural West Bengal state in December 1995, finally went be-

fore a judge yesterday.

Mr Bleach, 44, told the court he will plead his own case when his trial for treason gets underway on 20 February, some two months behind schedule. He faces the death penalty if found

guilty. Mr Bleach has declined an Indian advocate. He complained to the court about reports in the Indian press that he had been charged in the United Kingdom under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. and would risk legal action if he returned home. "This is defi-nitely prejudicial to a fair trial,"

David Belgrove, a British consular officer in Calcutta, confirmed that the reports were bogus". "There are no British

charges," he said.
"Unfortunately, everybody
seems to want to believe that I am guilty," Mr Bleach said.
"The main charge they have against me is 'conspiracy to wage war'. How can I possibly be guilty of conspiracy when the first thing I did was call the po-

He maintains that as soon as he suspected the arms he dropped over West Bengal might be intended for insurgents, he informed the British Ministry of Defence and local authorities. He claims that after the agencies failed to seize the weaponsdespite his intelligence, he became a public embarrass ment and a scapegoat.

"The bulk of the blame lies with British Special Branch. They sat on my information from September till December, then just told me to pull ont," Mr Bleach said. "I told them I thought the guns were to be used to kill politicians and par-

ty workers of the government." Mr Bleach has been in Presidency jail for 14 months, with six others arrested in connection with the case, including the Lat-

THE MS KRASIN

This sleek, modern river-cruise

is under long term charter to an American

based company. Unlike many other river

els in Russia the 'Krasin' is only

available to travellers in the UK

and United States. English

is the language used on

board, thereby avoiding

announcements in other

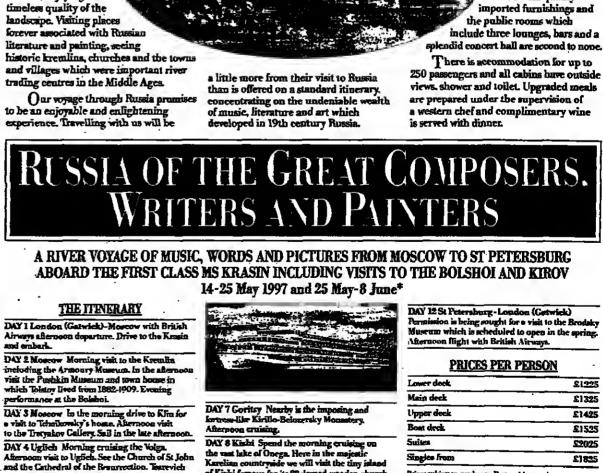
languages. The vessel was

completely refurbished

in 1995 with quality

vessel was built in Germany in 1989 and





he was lake of Onega. Here in the ma Karelian countryside we will visit the tiny island of Kishi femous for its 22 domed wooden church, which was created without the aid of a single metal neil

DAY 9 Seir Stroy Today we will stop at 2 small settlement on the River Stroy which links the two great lakes of Onega and Ladoga. It is a charming area of farms and forests and ideal for DAY 10 St Petersburg Morning city drive around St Petersburg's aristocratic palaces and

wint to the Russian Museum which specialise in Russian art from the 18th century or Afternoon visit to the Punhkin Pa performance at the Mariinsky Theatre. DAY II St Petersburg Morning visit to the

incomparable Hermitage Museum. After knoch there will be a tour of the Rimsky-Korsekov Museum. Evening ballet performance at the restored intimate theatre in the Winter Palace Catherine the Great

DAY 12 St Petersburg-London (Cetwick)
Permission is being sought for a visit to the Brodsky
Museum which is scheduled to open in the spring.
Afternoon flight with British Airways.

£1325 £1425 £1525 \$2025 Singles from £1825

Prier includes Economy class air travel, Il nights abourd the Kravin on Inll bourd, shore excursions, entrance ices, tickets for the Bolshoi, Marinaky and Hermitage themses, port taxes, UK departure tax, local guides, Guest Lecturer, Tour Manager. Not included: Travel insurance, Russian vina. sian departure tax £6.50, tips to crew,

This reverse itinerary is a longer duration-15 days. Full itinerary and prices are available on request.

> FOR FURTHER DETAILS Please telephone 0171-409 0376

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For more than three quarters of

the 20th century, at a time

when women were expected to

stay at home and raise families,

Kitty Stein was one of the lay

leaders of Jewish communal life.

Henrietta Szold, the charismat-

ic leader of Hadassah, the Amer-

ican women's organisation for

the Zionist cause, to become in-

volved in that work and in the

building of a Jewish communi-

ty in Palestine. Later, when she

hecame a central figure for

Youth Aliyah, concerned with

bringing young children out of

Hitler's Germany to Palestine

and Great Britain, she met all the

leaders of European Jewry in-

volved in the dream for a Jew-

ish homeland. By then, she had

married Leonard Stein, the his-

torian of the Balfour Declaration

of 1917 and a close associate of

Chaim Weizmann, later the first

president of the State of Israel.

Riehard took her to Israel

where she could see the fruits

of her labours, particularly the

youth villages and inspect places like the "Sarah K. Stein club-

room" in Aloney Yitzhak, and

recall her meetings with the founders of Israel. When the cu-

rator of the Weizmann Muse-um explained that all the rooms

were as they bad been decades

ago, Kitry Stein firmly dis-

agreed and explained how the

furniture should be re-arranged.

Recently, an interviewer asked Kitty Stein what she

would expect at the end of her

life. At once, she quoted Charles Kingsley's "A Farewell":

Be good, sweet maid, and let who will be clever.

Do lovely things, not dream them

all day long.

And so make Life and Death and

But she was clever. Her modesty

concealed a formidable intellect

and profound learning. She ex-

plained that Kingsley quotacon

by saying: "I believe in that vast

forever and shall become part

of it. As you cannot add to, or

diminish from, the mass of the

universe, I am part of that, too."

Her questing and question-ing approach to faith reflected

the thoughts of her favourite

teacher, Alfred North White-

head. After studying at Bar-

nard/Columbia University in

New York, she rejected a fel-

lowship at Bryn Mawr so that

she could study with Whitehead

at Harvard, But she also worked

with Harry Wolfson, professor

of Hehrew literature and

thought and the great expert on

Philo and on Spinoza, who con-

sidered Kitty one of the best stu-

One grand sweet song.

that vast For Ever

For her 90th birthday, her son

In 1923, she was chosen by

Kitty Stein

Hyamson, then a professo

the Jewish Theological Sen-

nary in New York). Born Sar.

Kitay, in 1899, she grew t

among the grandees of Ameican Jewish life. Her surnan

was the old Russian word for

China (Cathay), and her fath

He was a liberal tradition:

ist - the horses of the family a

riage rested on the Sabbath

who felt the need to live outsit

New York, where the Orthoda

community kept their sho open on the Sabbath. The k

tay furniture stores, early pr

ponents of the hire-purcha

plan, were closed on the Sa

bath. In time, Kitty joined th

Reform movement; but she;

ways respected traditional Je-

ish life and thought. If not-

feminist, Kitty was a fuz-fighter for women's rights.

her own public life proved h

leadership within Jewry. Kitty met Leonard Stein ar

Zionist Congress in Vienna

1925. The family recalls that I

asked her to dance; and he d

not like her hair "piled up lil

that". He pulled out a vital ha

pin, and it all tumbled dow

She was furious, and fell in lo.

with him on the spot. When th married three years later, sl came back with him to Englan

despite her parents' objection

for adventures and encounter

When she first visited Palesti,

in 1923, travelling from Alexa

dria to Jerusalem, she found h

compartment invaded by Ha

Selassie's entourage and e

joyed a long conversation French with the ladies and th

with the emperor. During t difficult 1930s, she worked w

the Woman's Appeal Comp tee to bring refugee childre

of Germany, and became pa

of the executive of the Briti

Youth Aliyah Committee, H

close contacts with the We

manns, Rebecca Sieff, Lo

Nathan and Leonard Mon

fiore kept her active in other

eas of Jewish life and thoug

During the Second World W

she lectured to tronps arou

Britain on "Democracy" - a

she also coached students it

In an interview in the Jew

convent school.

Chronicle she stated:

I do not believe in the existens

God as an external factor. End ture establishes its own kind of a

gion. I'm biased, I suppose, hav been brought up as a Jew, but I

that our conception of God and ethical concepts are far, far sup

or to anything that anyone else created and that the Old Testan

has contributed more to the es-lishment of law and culture in W

ern Europe than any other fact

1973, when he was 85. Kitty d

tinued to live in the Temple,

rounded by judges and the Her visitors on her last hirth

thought and sharp decip

judgements. At the West Il-don Synagogue and the W-

minster Synagogue she was l

involved in questions of mc

and of liturgy - and gave ade

Her husband Leonard diel

Kitty Stein always search

came from Lithuania.

Nora Beloff

Nora Beloff was a pioneer woman journalist of formidable intelligence, courage and tenacity. She was one of the first British women to become resident foreign correspondents and political writers for national newspapers.

She worked in Paris after the Second World War for Reuters, the Economist and the Observer, and went on to become the political correspondent, and later an international roving reporter, for the Observer, covering the world, Washington as well as Moscow and Belgrade.

She belonged to a generation in which women needed to be hrighter and more fearless than male rivals for plum jobs. Her obvious qualifications did not always make her friends amongst her male colleagues, whose arguments she tended to dismiss as "nonsense!" And some of her many distinguished political and diplomatic contacts flinched when she came on the telephone to bend their ears. She was incapable of allowing a sloppy thought to slip past without a

"Marjarie Reynolds, a blande

newcomer," enthused l'ariety, "is

a comely looker of much talent,

poise and versatility, whn will

certainly calendar her own pro-

fessional prominence from the

springboard of this Crosby-

Astaire filmusical." The curious

use of the word "calendar" (to

denote "gain") can be explained

by the fact that the film under

review was Irving Berlin's Hol-

iday Inn (1942). The use of the

word "newcomer" is also curi-

nus; the 21-year-old Miss

Reynolds was then the veteran

of more than 40 films, having

made her screen début 19 years

Born Marjorie Goodspeed,

she was taken to Los Angeles

as a small child and enrolled in

dance classes by her ambitious

mother. As Marjorie Moore,

she was soon appearing on the

silent screen with Ramon

Navarro in Scaramouche

(1923), and with Viola Dana in

Revelation (1924). After a brief

retirement, she returned to

make her first talkie, John Bar-

rymore's Svengali (1931). She

played small roles in College Hn-

mour (1933) and The Big Broad-cast of 1936 (1935), both of

which starred her future lead-

earlier.

Nora Beloff was the third of the five children her émigré Russian-Jewish parents produced and brought up in Britain. Her father traded in ehemicals in what is now part of Belarus; her mother was a aduate of the University of St Petersburg. The couple left Russia for England in 1909 to further the husband's business interests and changed their name from Rahinovich to Beloff. They did not attempt to disguise their origin, but they did want a short name the English

could recognise and remember. They never became fully at home in the English language, hut their husiness enterprises prospered and they founded a brilliant dynasty. Their eldest child, Max, created an independent university and was ennohled. Another became Professor of Psychology at Edinhurgh, a daughter became a headmistress, and another married a future Nobel prizewinner for chemistry. The following generation produced, among others, Michael Beloff QC.

ing man Bing Crosby. After College Holiday (1936), Broadway

Melody of 1938 and Champagne

Waltz (both 1937), she appeared with Tex Ritter in Tex Rides With

the Boy Scouts (1938), the first

of 14 small-hudget westerns

she would make in the next four

years, opposite such sagehrush

stars as Buck Jones, Ken May-

nard, Bob Baker, George

O'Brien, Tim Holt and Roy

Rogers. In hetween she toiled

iday Inn went into production.

Paramount Pictures had yet to

find a suitable leading lady.

Their problem was solved when

the choreographer Danny Dare

recommended an actress/

dancer with whom he had

worked on various musicals,

The studio wasted precious time

searching for Marjorie Monre

before learning that she'd

changed her name in 1937, af-

ter marrying one Jack Reynolds.

screen-tested her, she was ea-

gerly signed and flung into dance

rehearsals with Fred Astaire.

True, she wasn't much of a

singer, but since when has that

ever posed a problem to Holly-

wood? Martha Mears dubbed

Once they had found and

Less than a week before Hol-

in equally low-rent thriliers.

Marjorie Reynolds

went to King Alfred's School, a progressive co-educational estahlishment, hefore reading History at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, where she graduated in 1940. During the war she worked for Political Intelligence at the Foreign Office and joined the British Embassy in Paris after the liberation of France. She left the diplomatie service in 1945 to join Reuters.

She had always asked questions as a child and been chastised for it. As a journalist, she found she was actually being paid to ask questions. Her time with Reuters was not happy: her hureau chief was an enthusiastic Gaullist, which Beloff was not, but she learned the essentials of her trade; how to get news and how to write it in a lively, readable way.

Her typing, however, re-mained rudimentary. She hammered her machines as if intending to destroy them, but produced coded messages only she could decipher. While a foreign correspondent she wrote the last drafts of her stories on the phone, dictating to skilled,

her vocals, and Paramount were

so pleased with her performance

in Holiday Inn that they award-

ed her a seven-year contract, and

cast her opposite Crosby again

in Dixie (1943), the alleged hi-

ography of the composer Dan

Emmett, in which, as his loyal

wife, she inspired the writing of

the otle song. She gave an im-

pressive dramatic performance

as a Viennese refugee in Fritz

Lang's film version of Graham

Greene's Ministry of Fear (1945),

and made a ravishingly beaud-ful princess in the Boh Hope

romp, Monsieur Beaucaire (1946). She was loaned to Uni-

versal for one of Abbott and

Costello's better vehicles. The

Time of Their Lives (1946), in

which she and Costello played

ghosts doomed to haunt a state-

y mansion until they had proved

they weren't traitors during the

American Revolution. In a

clever special effect, the two

ghosts had a head-on collision,

but simply passed through, end-

ing up wearing one another's clothes. Reynolds, who was preg-

nant throughout the filming, said later, "I just wanted to get

When her Paramount con-

it over with."

knowledgeable copytakers. She continued to do this while covering politics in London. She made her name during

the Algerian war (1954-62), when she wrote well-informed. hard-hitting features about the torture of the women rebels Djamila Boupacha and Djamila Bouhired by French paratroops. She left France, before de Gaulle returned to power in 1968, travelled the world, and then took on Westminster and British national politics, as the Observer's political correspondent (1964-76). With the support of her editor, David Astor, she exposed the extreme left of the Labour Party in the left-ofcentre Observer, which also backed Edward Heath with his battle with the trade unions. Beloff was at heart a Conservative. She was not religious.

She did not get on well with Astor's successor, Donald Trelford, and after a final quarrel with him m 1978 left the paper she had served for 30 years. She did not, however, stop asking questions and continued to bomhard her many contacts

Mario Lanza's first starring film.

That Midnight Kiss (1949), and

then in a trio of "B" pictures that

suggested the action quickies she

ground out in the 1930s: Customs

Agent, The Great Jewel Robbery and Rookie Fireman (all 1950).

For MGM she made a film

calculated to endear the studio

to the House Un-American Ac-

tivities Committee. Called Home

Town Story (1951), and financed

by a top executive of General

Motors, it was the story of a lib-

eral newspaper editor who learned that Big Business wasn't

a heartless monolith, when his

little sister was huried in a cave-

in, and the owner of the town's

largest firm organised her rescue.

Marilyn Monroe made an ear-

ly screen appearance in this

Reynolds entered television

when William Bendix chose

her to play his dutiful wife in the

shoom The Life of Riley (1953-

58). After Riley, there were

guest appearances in various lelevision series, but few films,

the last of which was The Silent

In 1987, asked by a journalist

from Classic Image magazine whether she would welcome a

Witness (1962).

oddity.

with letters and telephone calls. Her final years were concentrated on the tragedy of Yugoslavia and what she called the avoidable war". Typically, she chose an unpopular line of argument and sought to prove that the Serbs were not the villains they had been made ont to be. She argued that the international media, especially television, were incapable of getting at the truth. She defended her version of the truth with her customary energy and courage. She abandoned the book she had set out to write on Yugoslavia and concentrated on trying to influence the world's

her life to journalism but, in 1977, when she was 58, she married Clifford Makins, the leg-endary sports editor of the Observer, who died in 1990. She had no children of her own, but is remembered by her nieces and nephews as "a marvellous aunt" who kept the various hranches of the family in touch with each other. Her bonks reflect her interests, as-

Nora Beloff devoted most of

policy-makers.



during her successful libel action egainst *Private Eye*, 1972 Photograph: Hulton Getty

signments and the awkward questions which never dried up. William Millinship

Nora Beloff, author and jour-nalist born 24 January 1919; cor-respondent in Paris, Washington. oscow, Brussels, Observer 1948-78, Political Correspondent 1964-76; books include The General Says No 1963, The Transit of Britain 1973, Freedom under Foot 1976, No Travel Like Russian Travel 1979, Tito's Flawed Legacy: Yugoslavia and the West 1939-84; married 1977 Clifford Makins (died 1990); died 12 February 1997.



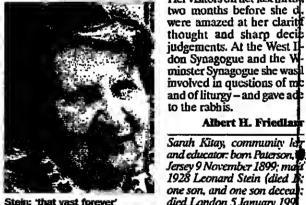
Reynolds replied, "Sure, I'd like to click and become a box office tornado, but, if I don't. I've got no kick coming, Personally, I like Hollywood and I like pictures. But that doesn't mean I have any illusions about either."

Dick Vosburgh

Marjorie Goodspeed (Marjorie Reynolds), actress: bom Buhl. Idaho 12 August 1921; married 1937 Jack Reynolds (one daughter, marriage dissolved 1952) 1953 Jon M. Haffen (died 1985); died Manhattan Beach, California 1 February 1997.

Photograph: Kobai ranted to get it over with

Kitty was rooted in Judaism (at the age of 16 she was tutored



Albert H. Friedlag

to the rabhis.

Sarah Kitay, community len and educator: born Paterson, Jersey 9 November 1899; mait 1928 Leonard Stein (died 1: one son, and one son decea died London 5 January 199

Ranul da Anda, film-mar died 2 February, aged 88. Art of Mexican cinema from early 1930s to the late 1950s Charro Negro", "the tik cowboy", as he was nicknaid acted in, produced and dired over 250 movies, the known being Santa, in white starred with the actress Lta

Jose Ignacio Domecq

tract expired, she appeared in hig screen comeback, Marjorie

Don Jose Ignacio Domecq was the acknowledged king of sherry tasters and known as El Nariz, "the Nose", for his astonishing ability to sniff out the nuances in the creation of his family's wonderful sherries.

Tall and lean, he carned this name for literal as well as figurative reasons. His hawk-like nose was memorably large. It was also his great good fortune - an indispensible gift in the blending necessary for creating the best of all sherries. From his childhood he could memorise aromas and tastes ranging from the freshly pressed must of Palomino grapes to the rich, ald dry shernes called Olorosos dating from the 1730s when the company was founded by an Irish larmer Patrick Murphy and one Juan Haurie.

The company rose to fame and fortune in the early 19th century when Ruskin, Telford. and Domceg were leaders in the British sherry trade. However the senior partner Ruskin's son. John, decided to make a life



writing on art and architecture - which he did with famous effect. It was left to another pariner, Pedro Domecq Lembaye, a relative of the Haurie family which had owned the firm since 1791, to expand the husiness. In 1816 Pedro Domecq quarrelled with the Haurie family, bought the business and renamed it Domecy after himself.

Jose Dameeq jained Domecq in 1939, became a mem-

was on the main board of Allied Lyons Domecq.

In 1992, the all-party Heritage Group of peers and members of the House of Commons, paying our own way, and organised by our imaginative and energetie ehairman, Sir Patrick Cormaek MP, travelled to Spain. Highlights included two hours with King Juan Carlos, and meetings with members of the government and the oppo-sition, the Mayor of Seville in Expo year, and with Don Jose Ignacio Domeco.

As we descended from our bus outside the winery - a colossal whitewashed warren nf his guests with a ferocinus

of huildings, streets and cellars called "The Jerusalem of Jerez" - a septuagenarian hove into sight on an ancient Moto Guzzi Hispania motorhike, a Jack Russell dog (as always) in a bas-ket on the back. He descended from his hike and greeted each

"The Nose" took us round his In the same essay he gave his Geddes where he pursued his from 1994 until December 1996 2,500 acres of vineyards in Jerez view of the world thus: superior from which come the well known sherry hrands of Fino La Ina and the Double Century range. Afterwards we were shown his wonderful col-

lection of Andalusian horses; he was an expert polo player well into his seventies. But the crowning experience was being taken by Domecq into his vaults. They must be among the most spectacular cellars in the world and none of us will ever forget being given a taste of hrandy made by the original Pedro Domecq in the year that

Napoleon went to St Helena, His young colleagues told us that Jose Domecq's personal skills as a blender were stupendous. In an essay for Christic's Wine Cumpanian

(1987) he wrote: Strolling through the bode is dipping out old sherries which have rested undisturbed for generations, must be one of the most satisfying encounters a man can have with wine.

I was heing formed in my faith as a Ro-

man Catholic in the immediate after-math of the Second Vatican Council.

Momentous change was being embod-

ied all around me. It was a big enough

shock when my nun teachers appeared

in modified habits, that exposed their

legs and bair, and changed their names from Bernard and Columba to Patricia

and Lucy. But what they were teaching

us was potential dynamite: that we were

the Church, that we had as many re-

sponsibilities and rights as the Pope

hishops and clergy and that it was all

of us together who made up the body of Christ on earth.

The change from an institutional ec-

desiology to an understanding of the

Church as a community called to serve

the world was incarnated most power-

fully in the changes in the celebration of

the Mass. It became a dialogue between

priest and people, a communal celebra-

tion and sacrament in which we received

and became the body and blood of Christ.

ond Vatican Council and made central

to the theological process as the means

through which truth emerges. The laity

were instructed by the Council in its doc-

ument Lumen Gentium to speak and act

out of their expertise for the good of

the whole Church. Thirty years on, gen-

uine dialogue has borne fruit in some

areas (such as ecumenical relations) but

Dialogue was a key theme of the Sec-

in ancient bodeias one watches human egos come and go - all talking loudly about market trends etc in the jargon of the moment - while the wine ignores them all and silently ages, turning itself with our tactful guidance into the same lovely old perfection enjoyed by our ances

In his book Sherry (1970), Julian Jeffs wrote:

At Domecq's bodeja there is a cask of Palomina that is well over 200 years old; it has, of course, been refreshed from time to time with old wine of the same style, but it is now practi-cally black and is so strong in flavour that il cannot be drunk unless blended with a younger wine.

Domecq was clearly ockled by seeing the British parliamentarians and their wives grimacing at the smallest taste of this ancient brew.

tocrat, Domeco was a frequent visitor to London. When not in his vintner's laboratory or tending his properties all over Jerez, his second home was the Bay of

passion for sailing. His ashes were sprinkled over the waters of his beloved bay.

Jose Domecq had style. Five days before he died of lung cancer he had the energy to remove his oxygen mask and drink what he called "La Penultima Capita". He fought ferociously to protect the good name of "sheragainst non-Spanish imitations, and won the war of nomenelature in Brussels in 1994 in establishing his point by European Directive (British sherry henceforth had to be described as "British fortified wine"). His only sadness was that in the same year his firm had to come under the control of the vast multi-national Allied Lyons Drinks Co.

Tam Dalyell

An Anglophile Spanish aris-crat, Domecq was a frequent taster: born Jerez, Spain 31 July 1914; married 1934 Angelea Fernandez de Bobadilla y Gonzalez (seven sons, five daughters); died Jerez 15 January 1997.

No authority can be exercised without dialogue

dents he had ever encountered. by the great Dayan Moses

Lawrence A. Fleischman, art collector and philanthropist, died London 31 January, aged 71. A fund-raiser for the arts in America and Europe, in 1991 he funded the refurbishment of the Bassae Gallery at the British Museum and made subsequent donations for the redevelopment of two of the Parthenon

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in the

11.11

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Personal Street, Street, 15 weite Som M. Miskey literation of description and a consultations Manager water de a m Red plantage of the state of telegraphy and Burth The same managements Burney and reserved to best cattle a feet for the character for the A CONTRACTOR OF THE PERSONS Reserve to some time A the Merchan with a matter from patrict

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

DEATHS
ASMLEY: Judith Ann Elizabeth, dearly lowed mother of Helen and Tom,
at home on Sunday 9 February. The
tuneral will take place at 57 Peter's
Church, Oadby on Wednesday 19 February at 2.30 pm. The interment will
follow at 51 Andrew's Church, Walberswick, Sulfelk, on Thursday 20
February at 2pm. Simple flowers
and or donations to the Leicestershire
Macmillan Service may be sent to A.J.
Adkinson & Son FD, 12 Lundon Rd,
Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5DG.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

PUFFETT: A memoral service for Dr Derrick Robert Puffett, Fellow al St John's College, Cambridge 1984-96 and formetly University Lecturer in Musse, will be held in St John's Col-lege Chapel on Saturday 1 March 1997 at 12 moon.

IN MEMORIAM

BOSENCE: Susan Bosence died In Feb-ruary 1996. Remembered with love.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS please telephone 0171-293 2012 or fax to 0171-293 2010,

Changing of the Guard serious gring UE CHE GRAPIE
TORNE TO Brachold Cavalry Mounted Regtiers instants the Queen's Life Guard at Horse
Viscoti, Ham TOWN REPORT. The Horsehold
Cavalry Mounted Regulated instants the Queen's
Lifet inard at Horse (reards, Plant 14 Edition
Seek-Canards mounts the Queen's Fund of Buckingkam Palsee, H., Plant Jond provided by the Irish
viscoti. Birthdays TODAY: Mr Clive Aslet, Editor,

Country Life, 42; Sir Nicholas Bayne, former High Commissioner to Canada. 60: Sir Harold Beeley, former ambassador. 88; Sir William Bentley, chairman, Society of Pension Coosultants, 70: Miss Claire Bloom, actress, 66: Sir Stephen Brown, former chairman. Stone-Platt todustries, 91; Mr Derek Conway MP, 44; Mr Dan Crompton, former Chief Con-stable. Nottinghamshire, 56; Sir Maurice Drake, former High Court Judge, 74: Mr Frank Dunlop, former Director of the Edinburgh Festival, 70: Mr Paul Ferris, author and journalist, 68; Mr John Greenway MP, 51; Mr Gerald Harper, actor, 68; Miss Diana Jones, jockey, 47: Professor Andrew Miller, Principal, Stirling University, 61; Mr Charles Needha former chairman, Coalite, 73; Sir Richard O'Brien, former chairman, Manpower Services Commission, 77: Sir William Reid, the Ombudsman, 66: Miss Jane Seymour, actness 46; Miss Clare Short MP, 51; Mr Peter Squire, former Headmaster, Bedford Modern School, 60: Mr. John Stainer, musician, 82: Sir Adrian Swire . chairman. John Swire & Sons Ltd. 65: Sir Alan Ward, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 59: The Right Rev Roben Woods, Assistant Bishop,

Gloucester, 83. TOMORROW: Miss Parti Andrews, singer (of the Andrews Sisters), 77; Mr Patrick Bailey, former director, Gatwick and Stansted Airports, 72; Mr Paul Bailey, novelist, 60; Mr Jeremy Bulloch, actor, 52; Professor Robin Clark, Sir William Ramsay Professor of Chemistry, University College London, 62; Mrs Stella

Clarke, chairman of council. Bristol University, 65; Mr Frederick Cuming, painter, 67: Sir Anthony Dowell. senior principal and director of the Royal Ballet, 54; Mr David Griffiths, portrait painter, 58; Mr Peter Hain MP. 47; Mr Peter Hobday, ra-dio presenter, 60; Mr Mike Holding. cricketer, 43; Mr Eliahu Inbal, conductor, 60; Mr tan Lavender, actor 5t; Professor Jack Levy, engineer, 71: Mrs Anne Lonsdale, President, New Hall. Cambridge: 56; Mr John McEnroe, tennis player, 38; Mr Gerard Mansell, former Deputy Director-General of the BBC, 76; Mr John Moore, Headmaster, St Dunstan's College, Catford, 54; M Francois-Xavier Ortoli, former EEC Vice-President, economic and fi-nancial affairs, 72; Mr Peter Porter, poet, 68; Mr John Schlesinger, film director, 71: Sir James Swaffield, former Director-General and Clerk to the GLC, 73; Sir Peter Webster, former High Court judge, 73.

Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: Galileo Galilei, as tronomer and mathematician, 1564. Deaths: Cardinal Nicholas Nat King" Cole (Nathaniel Adams Coles), singer and musician, 1965; Today is the Feast Day of St Agape of Term. St Sigfrid of Vaxio, St Tanco or Tatto and St Walfrid or Galfrid. TOMORROW: Births: Giambattista Bodoni, printer and typographer, 1740. Deaths: Sir Isaac Leslie Hore-Belisha, first Baron Hore-Belisha, stalesman, 1957. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of Saints Elias, Jeremy and their Companions, St Gilbert of Sempringham. St Juliana of Cumae

faith oreason

On Ash Wednesday a group of radical Catholics challenged

Cardinal Basil Hume to return the Catholic Church to the spirit of the Second

Vatican Council. Elizabeth Stuart endorses the call.

Now a world-wide "We Are Church' movement has formed which seeks to recall the ecclesiastical hierarchy to the vision of the Council and initiate dialogue on issues such as the nature of priesthood and sexuality. This includes in Britain a coalidon of Catholic groups, the Juhilee People, who are circulating a "Declaration" of desired reforms.

In response Cardinal Hume quite rightly warned against a constant appeal to personal conscience in matters of morality. For a Catholic (or indeed a Christian) moral decisions are always best made in the context of, and informed by, the community of faith. Indeed, many Catholics may have left the Church precisely because they were en-

their personal conscience in matters nf birth control whilst the hierarchy continued to teach its sinfulness. But if overdependence upon private

judgement is incompatible with the Catholic ethos so too is the Cardinal's statement that "there comes a point where obedience is demanded and docility to the mind of the Magisterium is the proper attitude to adopt". This week the "We Are Church" movement wrote an open letter to Cardinal Hume in response. The Vatican Council grounded its

theology of authority in the concept of servanthood. The full implications of this were not drawn out by the Council hut were taken up by feminist and liberation theologians: leaders do not own power but hold it on behalf of a community to whom they are accountable for its use. The language of servanthood and force is mutually incompatible. In the life of Trinity we have a model of a community, sharing and exchanging power, of dynamie dia-logue within God's self which should be reflected in His people.

The root meaning of the word authority is "to cause to grow or enlarge, to increase". Dialogue is a necessary prerequisite to the exercise of authority. For how is the Church to know what diminishes and what enlarges the dignity of gay people and women unless couraged by their pastors to exercise it engages in dialogue with those with-

in and without its walls? How can the Church conclude women priests to l a theological impossibility without fir carefully listening to the experienc of those sister churches which has admitted women to the priesthoo particularly as the Second Vatica Council acknowledged that the spirit revelation and the quality of catholic ity were not confined to the Roma Church?

Authentic dialogue changes all parties and the reform groups should be prepared to end up in a place very dil ferent from where they started - a should the bierarchy. Dialogue through letter has a venerable history in the Christian Church: it is how St Paul worked and refined the theology which was to become the foundation of se much Christian belief and practice. His theology is the product of dialogue with his communities. How appropriate it therefore is that

the latest exchange in the dialogue between the Cardinal and the Jubilee People should take place on Ash Wednesday, when the whole Church dons ashes as a visible sign by the body of Christ that it has faded to be what it is called to be, the pilgrim people of God, living out in its own being the radical mutuality, equality, and power sharing of the Holy Trinity.

Faith & Reason is edited by Paul Vallely

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A small neighbour that we have failed

n a mild Saturday morning in a relatively comfortable, relatively secure Britain, Albania is doubtless far from the minds of most of our readers. It is far from the minds of most people. That is one reason why it has degenerated so rapidly into such a nasty mess.

Albania bas, admittedly, been a nasty mess for most of the last 50 years. When its people rose up to throw the Communists out of power, they hoped it could be otherwise. But President Sab Berisha and his Democratic Party, once the bright hopes of southeastern Europe, bave succumbed to the temptations of power.

For a long time, only two things about Albanians were well-known in Britain: one, that their election results were implausibly one-sided; two, that Norman Wisdom was a national hero.

Now we need to pay more serious attention. A third fact has come to the nation's. attention: the place is run by gangsters. Yesterday and today, we report a fourth important fact: our Government and our governing party have supported these gangsters, long after it should have become obvious to them that they were up to their elbows in

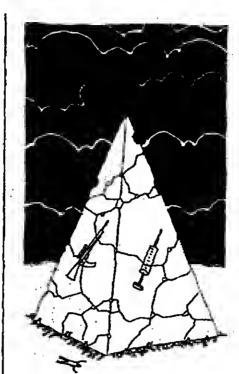
Along with all the peoples of Eastern Europe, Alhanians were made this promise by the West: "Come into the family of demo-

cratic nations, and we will help you to obtain the fruits of liberty and capitalism." That promise has been betrayed. In their naivety, Albanians elected a pyramid-seller as president. His slogan was: "Put your investment in the Democratic Party. It can only go higher." It should have been obvious in the west that the interest offered on governmentbacked accounts was unsustainable and would ultimately damage faith in the free

market and democracy.

Now Albania has become a gangster state where democracy is once again a sick joke, the opposition can expect to be beaten up and imprisoned, with an economy based on smuggling, exploitation, drugs and extortion.

There are many reasons why this bas been allowed to happen. We are ignorant of countries like Albania, and in the post-Cold War gloaming most of us (and many politicians and public servants) don't really want to bother about what seems a peripheral country. For those who did take an interest, helping the countries of Eastern Europe to move smoothly to democracy was a laudable aim. But politicians have to make a judgement about whom they are helping. And it seems that some of the more zealous on the political right saw Albania in out-of-date terms. Once the Communists were pitched out of power, the right was the only hulwark of democracy and capitalism, in their view. An



authoritarian conservative like Sali Berisha seemed preferable to a return to the days of Communism. Now we know that the intelligence agencies have been reporting back to national capitals for some time that the situation in Albania was deplorable. People have not listened.

Others might have worse reasons for turning a blind eye: it seems likely that some people in Europe bave found it profitable to let corruption run rife in a small, obscure corner of south-eastern Europe while money is made.

The United States, to give it credit, seems to have realised that things were going wrong. Europe, and especially France and Italy, have been blind; Britain and Germany are dithering. This country is on our doorstep, and we should care more that it is an unjust place. More concretely, drug-smuggling through Albania, political disintegration and money-laundering give us plenty of reasons to do something about it. Britain is further away, but we have been culpable all the same. The Government

went out of its way to be nice to Mr Berisha when the going was good, and it has not done much to change its line now things have gone

There is no reason to think that British policy bas been motivated by a desire to see gangsters in power. But it is clear that a preference for a right-winger has created a hlind spot. Britain likes stability in the Mediterranean, and has done for a century; and stability often means injustice. Having a friend in Tirana - a man who professed sympathy with the goals and values of Conservativism. and with Britain, must have seemed attractive.

There is a much broader point here than the direction of British foreign policy in the Balkans. Albania is not the only country drifting back into a nightmare. Throughout the world, many of the states that have emerged hlinking into the daylight from the rubble of the Soviet Union and its satellites are now sliding back into the darkness again. In most cases, it is the same combination of indolent ignorance and short-sighted selfinterest on the part of the West that is responsible.

A world where gangsters rule will not be a pleasant one. But that is what we face if situations like that in Alhania are allowed to flourish. The solution pressed upon us by the professionals - rebuild our defences, throw a few million pounds more at the security services - will not address this problem. Organised crime and its links to politics is one of the biggest problems which we face in the world today, and ministers remind us of that almost daily. If by their failure they bave encouraged it, then we want to know.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

Senior officers call for tighter curbs on arms exports

Sir: The Scott Report into the armsto-Iraq scandal, published a year ago today, demonstrated the urgent need for a stricter approach to weapons transfers. The case for restraint is often argued on humanitarian grounds. What is not stated is that our own armed forces are endangered by ill-conceived exports. This is a powerful rationale for stricter export controls.

There are compelling military

reasons for tightly regulating arms sales to regions of tension and instability. The "boomerang effect" h s resulted in European troops eing weapon's supplied by their own governments in peace-keeping operations in Somalia, Rwanda and Bosnia. During the Gulf war, Allied forces faced the heavily armed Iraqi forces, equipped as a result of the export of arms and military equipment from the European Union in the 1980s. ... ? A

It is important that our forces have

the best weapons available, but it is often argued that in order to subsidise we need to export new weapons stems. With constrained detence budgets, the export potential of new . projects is now a major consideration for any future development. For example, the UK government is already marketing the Eurofighter in the Middle East before the project has reached completion. By freely exporting the same weapons used by potential future opponents and so



the cost of developing new technology British troops in the Gulf war - facing European weapons in Iraqi hands

to retain any technological edge. Unilateral approaches to restraint are often confounded by a fear of loss of trade - "If we don't do it someone else will". Tougher control and restraint measures are therefore required at a national, European, and international level. Support continues to build for the introduction of a code of conduct on

have to develop more new equilibri

the arms trade at the ougoing EU Inter-Governmental Conference.

Accompanied by similar initiatives in the US and the UN, the introducton of such a code would significantly reduce the levels of human rights abuses, conflict, death and destruction caused by irresponsible arms exports to repressive regimes and regions of tension. The code of conduct would

also belp safeguard the lives of our own forces.

The opportunity to implement an EU code of conduct exists now - hut it needs the support of Britain. We would urge the Government to ." support this initiative. General Sir HUGH BEACH Field Marshal Lord CARVER Admiral Sir JAMES EBERLE

Sailed IRA suspect and her baby

Sir: The suggestion ("IRA suspect to be bandcuffed during birth", 13 Fehruary) that Roisin McAliskey is to be bandcuffed during the hirth of her child is completely untrue.

'The Prison Service made clear in January 1996 that women would not be bandcuffed during childbirth. Appropriate security arrangements will always be put in place, but once a phrpose of giving birth, any restraints are removed until such time as the prisoner is moved from the hospital back to prison.

This policy applies equally to Roisin McAliskey. RICHARD TILT Director General **HM Prison Service** London SWI

Sir: We wish to express our dismay at the refusal, yet again, to grant bail to Roisin McAliskey It is impossible to imagine a

justification for keeping an asthmatic, pregnant young woman in conditions which include being stupsearched twice daily, as well as before and after visits, in which in any case physical contact is precluded.

We concur in Amnesty's Tidgement that any arrangement resulting in a separation of mother and baby following the birth would amount to cruel, inhuman and

degrading treatment for both. We urge the Home Secretary to ac immediately to ensure a bumane outcome in this tragic case. The Rev Professor PATRICK HANNON

Chairman Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas Dublin

Sir. Whether or not Roisin McAliskey is guilty of any crime, her baby is certainly innocent. To sentence it to be separated from its natural carer and best food-source is nothing less than wicked. JANET BARLOW Ravensionedale, Cumbria

Media folk give marriage a bad press

Sir: Virginia Ironside's sad piece on marriage (12 February) instances ber own and others' disasters. She writes of ber sense "I" being taken over by the "we" and concludes that for many people the institution of marriage is now simply too difficult

I wonder if this is true for a higher. percentage of journalists and media people than for others. People in these professions need to be individualistic: only if they have their own different voice are they likely to succeed in such a high-pressured competitive environment. Perhaps the very talents needed for this success make it hard to achieve the

balance of "I" and "we" needed for marriage. · · · This would be a matter for themselves alone, except that they form a crucial part of the social climate - the ideas and outlook around all of us. Lack of belief in the sustainability of marriage may be an important factor in making marriage more difficult for all of

Normal humpy patches come to be seen as a sign of incompatibility. so the partnership should be ended. Sometimes this is necessary; often it is not. Given a climate in which

Sir: Professor Buchanan (Letters, 14

February) calls for a national agency

to control the "degeneration of the national heritage" exemplified by the

Historical Manuscripts does already

Professor Buchanan supposes not to

be available. It is, for example, one of

owners of archival material with high

heritage value" and subject to their

consent to maintain a publicly available record of their holdings in

the National Register of Archives.

whose indexes are now widely

our principal duties to "identify the

break-up of nationally important

The Royal Commission on

offer many of the services that

archives in the sale room.

difficulties can be thought about (perhaps with some outside help) rather than acted upon, many of us can find constructive ways of

halancing the "I" and "we". Amazingly, over 60 per cent of us still do sustain marriage or longterm partnerships. Let's celebrate

PAT HURFORD St.Alban's, Hertfordshire

Sir: I read the recent proposals for a ten- or five-year marriage contract ("Thousands do it, but is it time we reformed marriage?", 10 February) with a sense of dejà vu. In the foreword to his novel Brave New World (1932), Aldous Huxley writes:

There are already certain American cities in which the number of divorces is equal to the number of marriages. In a few years, no doubt, marriage licences will be sold like dog licences, good for a period of twelve months, with no law against changing dogs or keeping more than one animal at a

One wonders whether his other predictions will also come true. ALEWIS Wibnslow,

available on the Internet

the public search room here.

archives by gift, sale or loan to appropriate national or local

We are always willing to advise

owners about the disposal of their

to owners who wish to retain their

archives. A vital advisory role is also

played by organisations such as the

Business Archives Council the

Contemporary Medical Archives

the National Cataloguing Unit for

the Archives of Contemporary

British Records Association and the

Centre at the Wellcome Institute and

London WCI In Scotland, the mail

always gets through

Sir: It must be different in England and Wales, judging by the recent readers' letters complaining of poor deliveries of first-class mail. We live at the end of a half-mile of steep farm track; the only visible habitation is the farm itself, a quarter mile below our house. The mail arrives at the door daily, usually by 8am, often containing letters posted the previous

day by one of our daughters in rural Devon or rural Northumberland. Please, Lord, don't allow them to privatise the Post Office; many in Scotland would lose a treasured service.

DEREK FABIAN Milton, Strathclyde

Sir: The best way would be for all mail to be stamped second class. The Post Office could not possibly allow a build-up of delayed mail if this was done. When the iniquitous two-tier system was introduced I resisted it for some in the end succumbed. I shall in future stamp all my letters second class, including this one. Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire

■ Tris letter, dated 12 February, arrived

Archives in danger of being broken up? We can help

on 14 February

London WC2

Scientists at Professor Buchanan's (http://www.hmc.gov.uk) as well as in own former department, not to mention the network of local authority record offices. We can also put repositories in touch with potential grant-awarding bodies and alert the latter to any repositories, if this is what they want. We also regularly offer free guidance major sales known to be pending.

What neither the Commission nor any of its partners in the field can do is to compel an owner to consult us or prevent the sale of an archive in separate lots if that is the owner's chosen course. CHRISTOPHER KITCHING Secretary, The Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.ok) and incinde a daytime felephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are anable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

Drop the futile 'war on drugs'

Sir. The ridiculously out-dated 1971
Misuse of Drugs Act is patently not
stopping the great British public from
consuming ever greater quantities by
criminalising their use ("Trainspotting:
the reality", 13 February).
The new Home Office report

demonstrates that government policy is giving £600m per year to violent criminal gangs in London alone every year. I propose the Government legalise cannabis, tax it, and use the money to subsidise proper education and barm-reduction campaigns against hard drugs.
Though the public bas accepted

that drug-taking is as commonplace as, and safer than, many legal activities, the Government continues in its futile War On Drugs, denying any debate - even on the subject of medicinal camabis. JON THOMPSON
Macclesfield, Cheshire

Sir: Once again we hear of starving refugees. Once again the world's governments and the UN ignore a vital food supply - easy to grow, two to three crops a year, grows almost anywhere, no pesticides or artificial fertilisers.

For thousands of years much of the human race survived from cannahis seed, using it to make gruel and bread. Today the plant is banned almost everywhere, seemingly because those in power do not want people to get high. The many medicinal uses of cannabis are

similarly ignored.
Surely the "high" of cannabis is not the real reason, considering that dangerous and addictive alcohol is legal. Could it be pressures from the companies which make ineffective synthetic drugs, pesticides and fertilisers, diesel and plastics? Hemp grown for fabric (the word "canvas" comes from the Dutch word for hemp), paper, fuel, oil, paints, and medicines, cheaper, better and with no pollution. More reasons to vote for a Legalise

Cannabis candidate in the election. JACK GIRLING Chairman, Campaign to Legalise Cannabis International Association Norwich

Turn-around

Sir. In the depths of the recession, 1991-1992, each criticism of government policy was met with the mantra, "We wish we could do something about it but the world is in recession; these things are beyond our control." Now that the global economy is on a better footing (oh yes, and an election approaching in the UK) the same bunch are claiming all the credit. SIMON CALLEN Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire

Stealing history

Sir: While innumerable foreign artefacts lie in the British Museum it ill becomes us as a nation to call any other collector a thief ("Pictures that prove the guilt of Moshe Dayan", 14 February). We should, in just reparation, donate a properly earthquake-resistant museum to Athens to house the Parthenon PAMELA DONOHUE Sheffield.

Brain capacity

Sir: With reference to the discussion about the relative brain size of women and men (Technoquest, 10 February, Letters, 13 February), surely there is a correlation here with other parts of the human anatomy? It's not the size that matters, but what you do with it. MARGARET BROOKES-TULLETT

Horsham, West Sussex

LETTER from THE EDITOR

rial by newspaper" is the emotive, tossed-about term for much of what modern papers do - it is what red-faced MPs snarl when cornered, as in the Neil Hamilton case. We were con-ducting "trial by newspaper" yesterday morning on the front page, when we attacked Westem politicians over the gang-ster-state of Albania, and we continue the prosecution with

relish this morning. We did call OJ Simpson a murderer on the front page, and some readers objected but that followed a civil case which bad in effect convicted him as a killer. In most examples, "trial by newspaper" is really a shorthand for journalistic finger-pointing and we assume that proper legal or political process will follow that Parliament will act, or that a criminal prosecution will be

brought. But the jaw-dropping behav-iour of The Daily Mail yesterday is in another league. By naming five unconvicted men as the murderers of Stephen Lawrence and challenging them to sue, it acted as a revolutionary tribunal of public opinion.

My instinctive reaction was an admiring gasp: it was a jour-nalistic coup de théatre which chimes with what many people thought. Getting a murder prosecution in the climate of fear surrounding the case, with the accused refusing to answer, had proved impossible. So the Mail went shead and, following the brave Lawrence family's crusade, convicted them

The hard truth is that news-

papers are not juries, nor are editors judges. We get above ourselves at our peril: the Mail's challenge to "sue us if you dare" summons the blood, but conceals the huge disparity of financial forces that would then come into play. Knowing that, and having slung the placard "murderer" round five free men, what does the Mail think should bappen next? What if they were lynched? There are scores of trials every week thwarted ambitious was to edit which end in a way someone thinks unjust: how would it feel if newspapers took even half of them up, in this way? Or if the accused killers were

Criminal standards of evidence can be frustrating, occasionally infuriating, but they are an essential civil protection against injustice - and that can create other injustice. It's a bad system, but better than any of the other ones. Being a journalist is great fun and a great privilege, but there is a sense of hubris about the trade which is becoming unsettling. The line between fearlessly accusing and simple bullying blurs very easily.

Now: a shameless puff, a piece of free advertising, a blatant abuse of my editorial position. An Ipswich-based publisher,

The hard truth is that newspapers are not juries, nor are editors judges. We get above ourselves at

our peril

the Golgonooza Press, has produced a collection of essays by an elderly Kentucky tobacco farmer by the name of Wendell Berry - it's called Standing on Earth. So? Well, Berry is something special, a wise and radical writer on man's relations with the planet. He produces poetry, essays, short stories, travel diaries and novels. He writes "about" education, farming, poetry, religion, energy and marriage but they all merge into one another and the overall effect is of a brilliant and seamless intelligence roving through the most difficult chal-

lenges of the modern world.

Even where you completely disagree with Berry (as I do, about quite a lot) you know you are in the printed presence of an extraordinary mind. How does be write? A little as one imagines Jefferson might if he were alive today. One of my a selection of Berry for a British audience. Now, instead, all I need to do is recommend this

Andrew Marr

QUOTE UNQUOTE

The level of alcohol consumed at these lunches makes it unlikely that those attending them could do any work in the afternoon, let alone stand up - Gordon Sutton, District Auditor, reporting on junkets by Labour councillors in Doncaster I don't want to join in this circus atmosphere that's out there at

this time - OJ Simpson, refusing to comment on the \$21m in damages a jury ordered him to pay after deciding he killed his ex-wife and her friend

It's like a fresh, clean page in 1997 for me, and I hope in my travels I may be able to inspire other people to keep fighting and have courage - the Duchess of York, telling US television viewers she has her debts and her weight under control

It really makes you want to burst into tears. Who said I'm lining up with Labour? I am a bumanitarian figure, always have been, always will be - Diana, Princess of Wales

I'm not getting married today. I'm in bed - Liam Gallagher, rock stor One of the few things on which all marketing academics and practitioners agree is that if the product is rubbish, no amount of hype will make it sell. The Referendum Party is a textbook example -Prof Patrick Barwise, London Business School

Why go out for a hamburger when you can have steak at home? -- Paul Newman, actor, on being faithful to his wife, Joanne Woodward

Murdered because he was black

After Stephen Lawrence died in a 'racist attack', the police ran into a wall of silence. Peter Popham explains why

an black people expect justice in Britain? Nearly four years after it happened, the murder of Stephen Lawrence confronts the nation's ethnic minorities with that stark question. They have looked on while

high-profile cases such as the murder in Somers Town, north London, of the white boy Richard Everitt by a gang of Bengali youths, or the murder of west London headmaster Phillip Lawrence were brought with brutal efficiency to conviction and sentence. In both cases, the culprits got life. But in the case of Stepben

Lawrence, stahbed to death at a bus stop in Eltham, south London, every recourse has ended in failure and frustration. The Crown Prosecution Service dropped the prosecution of two youths in mid-trial, citing insufficient evidence. The private prosecution brought by the Lawrence family failed last year on the same grounds.

It started out as a strictly south London news story, but each futile trip through the legal system intensified media interest, because there are few things we like more than a reallife soap. But when the case got back into the headlines yester-

day at the end of the long-post-poned inquest, it was the same old story - unlawful killing, yes; an "unprovoked racist attack by five white youths", no less - the Coroner's jury going way out on a limb in spelling it out so clearly. But no convictions, no sentences, no justice. We were also treated to the

spectacle of the Daily Mail metamorphosing -abracadabra - into a sudden champion of the downtrodden minorities, calling the five white youths "murderers", pure and simple, and daring them to sue the Mail if they denied it was true. This was rare and strange, refreshing or nauseating according to taste, and certainly grabbed the attention. But justice it ain't - neither for Stephen Lawrence nor for those suspected of killing him. In fact, if the Mail's crusade caused a further civil case against the five would have had precisely the opposite effect to that which the bother?" she said. paper claims to intend.

Stephen Lawrence, an Alevel student whose parents came to Britain from Jamaica, was standing at a bus stop on 22 April 1993 with a friend when a gang of white youths ran up to them, calling "What, what, nigger?" and one of them stabbed him fatally with what

was later described as a 10-inch knife. Stepben and his friend ran 200 yards to try to escape, hut Stephen collapsed and died from loss of blood. It is the police's activity or

lack of it over subsequent hours and days that is at the heart of much of the Lawrence family's anger over the handling of the case. Why did the police, who arrived at the scene as Stephen lay dying, not immediately Why did they seem more interested in quizzing his family about any possibility of crimi nality in Stephen's own background (there was none) than in tracking down the guilty? As Stephen's mother Doreen put it in a statement read outside the coroner's court by her sister on Thursday: "Right from the start on the night our son was murdered, it seemed that named youths to be aborted, it in the minds of the police, he was only a hlack boy - why

> Of course, this version of police thinking is vigorously rejected by the police them-selves. "Words simply cannot express the enormous sympathy we have for the Lawrence family," Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner Ian Johnston said, pointing out that 2,600 people bave been inter

Stephen Lawrence: killed by those who took furtive territoriality and turned it into a perverted crusade

viewed in the inquiry and 70 suspects investigated. The view that the police were

themselves guilty of a sort of passive racism during the investigation, of inertia and lack of ardour in bringing the case to a conclusion, may be quite wrong. We have no way of knowing. standable. And the only way to prevent such a suspicion forming would have been to move beaven and earth to see that justice was done.

There is, for instance, the question of witness protection. The youths accused and then acquitted of the murder, and who the Mail now names as murderers; were members of a gang of white, jobless school dropouts who got their kicks, and doubtless their twisted selfesteem, from assaulting blacks, painting racist graffit and so on. They fancied themselves as gangsters, two of them, Neil and Jamie Acourt, modelled themselves on the Kray brothers, and

like the Krays, their reputation relied on creating a mood of fear within their territory. In this, they seem to have been successful; although they were considered prime suspects in the murder by people in the neighbourhood, nobody had the courage to make a state-

Titness protection is expensive and much in demand, and it is arguable that, because the accused were not serious professional criminals but only nasty young punks, it would have been inappropriate to spend much on protecting witnesses in this case. One wimess was protected, at a cost of thousands of pounds, but refused to co-operate further when his name became known.

With hindsight, and considering the damage that has been done by the case to relations between police and ethnic minorities, much more of this

should bave been done; if it had been, it might bave elicited a statement sufficiently damaging to bring about a conviction. Instead, the lack of forensic evidence or sold testimony added to the wall of silence thrown up by the accused since May 1993, caused public and private prosunous to couapse.

Yet an even more worrying thought is that even if there bad been witness protection, Stephen Lawrence's killers might bave got away with it. At issue is a subject most of us probably consider too primitive to concern us much - territoriality. Yet if the theory and practice of ethnic cleansing can drag the politics of an ostensihly modern European country such as ex-Yugoslavia into war and catastropbe, then territoriality, mostly unseen, often elaborately genteel in its manifestations, remains a power in our land, too.

In middle-class suburbs, they twitch the lace curtains, spell

words out with painful slowness as if their coloured interlocutor were inevitably a cretin. The chatter in the puh dies away when the hlack man walks in; heads turn, then turn back, and nothing is said.

Evasiveness and hypocrisy are the classic middle-class onse to the challen multi-ethnic society; yank little Johnny out of the local school, not for racial reasons. God forhid, but to give him the best possible start in life with those who share his values. Move house yourself for cleaner air, bigger garden, less crime never, ever, to get away from the festering racial tensions of the inner city.
In the East End, the white

working class has fled in buge numbers for the outer suburbs, the Green Belt and the pale wastes of deepest Essex, and race has been an important factor in this Great Trek bence the popularity of the politics of the like of Norman

Tebbit in places like Chine ford, where many of then

Eltham in south London is another such place. With its ribbon development of 1930s semis, it might look bleak to many people, but to anyone coming bere from the top the East End, it is the promised land. And Eltham's young thugs have taken it upon themselves to keep the milk and boney for their own

Dr Mark Johnson, senior researcher at the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations at the University of Warwick grew up nearby. "The young working-class white kids in Eltham have seen places north of Eltham such as Deptford going hlack, and they see themselves as trying to hold the line," he says. People will tell you blacks are buying houses north uf the South Circular Road, but ple who have got out of the East End and gone slightly up in the world, and they want to keep things the way

Coung hooligans to the outside world, in their own imaginings they are protecting their community from alien incursion. They are taking the furtive, tacit, disguised territoriality that permeates our society and turning it into a per-verted crusade. While some potential witnesses in the Stephen Lawrence murder case may have held their tongues out of fear, others probably did so in a gesture of solidarity.

Certain things We improved in Eltham since that terrible day three years ago, Makhan Bajwa, director of the Greenwich Council for Racial Equality, points to the unit operated jointly by the local authority and the police which investigates all racial attacks in the borough, and whose clearup rate for racial attacks last year rose from 29 per cent to 44 per cent. A "professional witness scheme" to bring evidence in cases of racial harassment was launched recently, and there is

ment victims. In ways such as these, the lives of the self-styled champions of white communities are made more difficult. But the fundamental problem doesn't go away. Stephen Lawrence's killers remain free. Racial incidents in England and Wales rose by three per cent in 1005-6 to a total of 12,222. Whener upfront and rampant and flaunting ten-inch knives, or buried in comfortable layers of self-deceit and obfuscation, the primitive urge for territorial monopoly survives. Until we confront and defeat it, justice for Britain's blacks will remain a scarce commodity.

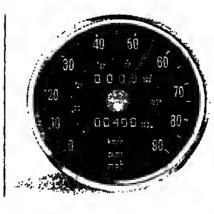
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training. I can think nf many, many things I would rather I was at the Comedy Store in London last Friday night and the subject of the McCall/

of days later, I was speaking to another friend who had really wanted to watch the fight, but wasn't prepared to fork out the extra tenner. This situation will become more and more common until only sports are left that are so dull no one is prepared to pay extra to watch them. Bowls? Carriage driving à la Prince Philip? Lacrosse? These are what will be left to the poor old BSkyB viewers. How to ebange this, though? Unfortunately, the only thing

down is if enough people boycott "pay per view". Well, pigs might fly, I suppose. The first all-women expedition is about to set off for the North Pole after

several munths of gruelling

do than months of gruelling training, let alone the actual expedition. Unfortunately, British expeditions through hig snow don't have a great history, Captain Scott having been pipped at the post by the Norwegians at the Sonth Pole and poor nld Sir Ranulph Fiennes suffering first off from too much snow and then frost-bite. The expedition is sponsored by Penguin, the chocolate bar people, and I suppose chocolate is more appropriate than, say, hairspray or lingerie. The women are taking 7,000 Penguins with them ... a mere coffee hreak for some of us. I think these women will stick together. I can't see any of this "I may be gone some time" husiness happening. It's refreshing to

pursuits and, if this continues, the accumulation of female achievements will impress men sbortly before heli freezes over.

by continuing the selfrighteous discrimination of ber party. Most of the . prejudice is directed towards those of North African descent, many of wbom were actually born in France. This legitimised racism, to me, has nothing to do with the concept of what the NF seems to think are white civil liberties, because, by its very nature, it impinges upon the civil liberties of others. The film footage of a load of smug, middle-aged French people cheering the result of the vote made me angry, hut not as angry as I feel about the corruption of the previous socialist mayor whose shenanigans created this situation to a great extent.

How you can vote for the

socialists and then change

your vote next time round to

the National Front, I do not know; but it seems many voters can and do manage it. Let's just bope the new mayor of Vitrolles is even more corrupt than the socialists.

I was very sad to hear of the death of Brian Connolly of The Sweet, who was an integral part of my teenage years; I remember many a sweaty night jumping up and down to the strains of Blockbuster. They did actually appear at our local nightcluh in Hastings, a most unpleasant beery dive known as The Aquarius. I didn't actually make it but I do remember a girl from our school boasting that she had got into the dressing room and indulged in some very unladylike behaviour with him. Everyone seemed very

that day, whenever I saw or thought about Brian, I couldn't avoid picturing him in a compromising position with Sally Taylor (name

So this week we finally got to see what the land mine controversy was all about with a documentary/ video diary of Diana's trip to Angola. She seemed to divide her time between giggling and shoring intrusive photographers awey. I'm afraid I couldn't take the programme seriously. This woman is a Sloane through and through, and any amount of serious dressing-down for the occasion cannot disguise the fact that she is more at home shopping than trying to be Queen of our Hearts. Perhaps the public will fall for this and love her, while Fergie blunders her way round America cashing in and Camilla stares despairingly into the mirror. In the end though, they are all just posh rich women supporting a system of inherited wealth that is unfair and exploitative. They are therefore interchangeable and we should spend no more time 🕖 attempting to assess which one is better than the other.

jo brand's week

Lewis fight came up. As all the other acts were performing there the following night when it was on (the dressing room bas a telly with Sky), they decided they would all watch it. Then the words "pay per view" floated into the air and everyone's face dropped as this is felt by most people to be a big BSkyB con. A couple

see women getting their teeth into traditionally male that will force BSkyB to back

> The French town of Vitrolles near Marseilles now has a National Front mayor, Catherine Megret, who looks set to try and leave her mark

impressed by this and since

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The merest crack, and horridlooking spirits will be among us

bury. Yesterday's news that the last remains of St Thomas à Becket (slaughtered on the indirect orders of Henry II in 1170) are to be temporarily repatriated by the Vat-ican this year will surely boost visitors to the cathedral. There, from April to October, we will be able to gaze on a golden box containing Thomas's shirt and bits and pieces of the saint himself. Unfortunately, the word "remains" is all too accurate in this case, since little is left of Mr à Becket other than some skull fragments and a couple of gobbets of brain.
Alas! His killers did their work all too well.

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These are, of course, good tidings, if only England's football fans had been aware of the return before Wednesday's disappointing match with the remains-stealing Italians, they could have taunted their opponents with a chorus of Becket's coming home, he'a coming home, he's coming...!" Who knows what manner of inspiration might not have seized Matt Le Tissier when he rose to bead that ball in the 32nd minute.

But wait a moment. Not everyone is delighted. The Prayer Book Society, for instance, is extremely worried about the consequences of letting the truncated Thomas return. The secretary of the society, Margot Thompson, is quoted as warning that "bring-ing relics back to the cathedral is going back to the lheology of pre-Reformation days", ie before the break with Rome. Having blobs of Becket brain on the premises was both "unnecessary and irreverent".

The Rev David Streater, director of the Church Society was less absolute in his opposition - but nonetheless concerned. "Worship of relics is a well outdated medieval superstition," he argued (as opposed, I guess, to all those trendy medieval superstitions still relevant today). He went on: "I urge people to go and look at the relics as artefacts, but to make them objects of worship

is ludicrous and idolatrous." Two things interest me about this reaction. The first is the fact that a debate begun in eighth and ninth century Byzantium should exercise than a century, the iconoclasts, path.

and iconodules of the Eastero Empire battled over pictures, statues and relics of saints. The sound of marching feet from their eastern borders did not deter them from their battles as enemy forces invaded forces who believed, impartially, that both sides would look equally good burned to a crisp under a pile of their own learned tracts and pamphlets.

. But I am even more fascinated by the vision that the Rev Streator and Ms Thompson have of their fellow citius. Let loose from the

restraining leash of Church doctrine, it would only be a matter of time before indu-gences were being sold on the street, and the Office of the Holy Inquisition strode the land, sticking pointy hats on heretics and using them to heat town squares.

David Streater's worries are less apocalyptic, but seem to encompass a concern that many of us might (were it not for bis warnings) suddenly prostrate ourselves on the cold flags of the cathedral floor, and give ourselves over to idol-worship. In his mind's eye, he sees coaches diverted from Lourdes and various continental spouting Virgins, headed across the Channel to . mutter mumbo-jumbo in front of a little gold box.

Our friends are, of course, gate-keepers. Gate-keepers are animated by a nagging belief that their fellow citizens are mostly credulous and superstitious fellows, whose capacity for barbarous thinking and behaviour is held in place only by the thinnest veneer of civilisation and education. The merest crack, and horrid-looking spirits will dance among us; suddenly, ignorance will once more be king.

In vain do you argue with gate-keepers that actually there is little to fear; that most of the people you know seem to be able to look at saint's remains without going bonkers: that it is incredibly hard to put the clock back. and that the trick is to move on. For they have their gate to keep, and it's no use your telling 'em that everyone else 20th century Britons. For more is travelling by a different

London – the city that never moves

by Randeep Ramesh



The Tube is falling to pieces, the roads are clogged and crawling, pedestrians live in fear and the air is a soup of pollution. And what is being done about it? Nothing

should see a new high-speed train service, the Heathrow would lose £430m from their Treasury grant over three years.
Just to add to their troubles,
ministers will announce in the Express, running from Paddington to the airport. The Jubilce next few weeks that the Under-Line extension, a £2.6bn underground connection set to open next year, will link Stratford in ground is to be sold off-a move which has been expected ever east London to Westminster with a loop of track that runs Labour knows that the dilapsouth of the river with stops at Waterloo, London Bridge and idated network needs £350m a a new station - planned to be year simply to keep going but is too frightened to produce a the largest underground station spending pledge - opting instead to fudge the issue with in the world - at the site of the Millennium dome in Green-

Local authorities are also

trying to tackle vehicle prob-

a pledge for more "public and "Along with the improveprivate" sector involvement. While politicians posture, ments on the Thameslink and the Docklands Light Railway, it passengers suffer. An emerseacy board meeting of London is the biggest rail expansion in Underground's directors was London since the 1930s. held earlier this week to decide according to Irving Yass, direcwhich services to cut in order to tor of transport and planning at keep the trains running. London First, which represents business in the capital.

Despite the gloom, however, the capital has seen a rash of new rail projects. This year

and Roadtrack has closed all

clockwise exits on the M25. Motorists are advised to close car

mally dangerous' levels... Only upper-class passengers on the Pepsi Piccadilly line will be allowed to board Heathrow

restricted to 'socially necessary'

of London's 33 boroughs it is

The nation's capital may be swinging, but it is certainly not moving. Gnidlock has become a regular blot on the landscape.

Earlier this month, more than

30,000 motorists clogged west

London after Hammersmith

Bridge was closed at short notice for at least two years for repairs to its 110-year-old

More congestion has meant more pollution. The Govern-ment's own health limits for particulates – deadly tiny parti-cles of dust produced mainly by

cars - were exceeded at least

once every week last year.

Worse things are happening underground. The Tube, which

millions of Londoners and com-

miners rely on every day, is slowly falling apart. Twice last year the system was brought to a standstill after electrical fail-ures, trapping tens of thou-sands of passengers under-

"Parts of the network are just

waiting for the coffin lid to be closed. They are just life-expired and we are fighting to

make sure that sudden closures

do not become a regular fea-

ture. The fact is we need more

money for the whole system, said one Tube manager.

The Government is uncon-

cerned. It sounded the death

knell last year for the public ser-

vice after announcing in the

Budget that Tube managers

ce the Conservatives '

the last general election.

ground for hours.

unlikely to surprise you.

o one has heard this particular traffic bulletin. But if

you live in or

lems. In the flagship Tory borough of Wandsworth, councillors have proposed a scheme enforced by police - where dri-vers of cars that belch notious fumes could face fines or penalty points on their licences. Tory councillors in the borough talk with the zeal of the newly converted. "We could all cut down on air pollution in the capital by limiting the number of car journeys we make," said Guy Senior, the chairman of the borough's technical services

Westminster is also considering pedestrianising Parliament Square, Trafalgar Square and even Park Lane, in order to restrict the number of cars in the city centre

Councils use meters and parking fines as major generators of revenue. Camden where council tenants may be banned from owning cars under

new proposals - made a healthy £5m surplus from its parking restrictions last year and has now said it wants an extra £1m Not everyone is happy. Measures introduced by Westmin-

ster last year made it harder to park in busy West End streets. London theatres complained that the new restrictions were damaging business. Other cities are closely following events in London.

Because rest of the country has elected bodies, many are attempting to gently restrict car use through local initiatives. In Edinburgh, councillors have asked residents to hand in their car keys and instead join a "motoring club" where bomeowners rent vehicles when they need them.

But most innovative schemes in London fall flat through a lack of funding. The Riverbus,

environmentalists agree. A recent report by green groups claimed that traffic in London could be cut by a third over the next decade by encouraging more walking and cycling as well as coaxing businesses to promote public transport and

The RAC agreed and published an astonishingly frank critique of the motor car when it produced its own charter to "get London moving" carlier this mooth. The motoring organisation advocated pedestrianising Trafalgar Square, prioritising investment in public transport and told its members; "If any future government is to aim to get people out of their cars there is simply no alternative tu massive investment in buses. trains, walking and cycling." "We champion mobility, rather than the motorist" said the RAC's chief executive, Neil

So, if there is so much con-So, if there is so much con-sensus, why does nothing get done? The simple answer is that there is nobody to dn it. The abolition of the Greater Lon-don Council in 1986 left no single authority able to take a strategic overview of London's transport problems.

Instead there is a minister for transport in London, an advi-(LPAC), 33 local authorities often with competing interests - and a Cabinet sub-committee chaired by John Gummer, the self-styled minister for Lon-

don.

Hence planning tends to be either shambolic, as with the Docklands - where poor transport links are only just being improved - or non-existent. which has left the Government's bus-lane program in the hands of local councillors unwilling to carry out unpopular policies.

Even former members of the Government can see the present system has its failings. "It is clear many transport issues in London have to be taken on a strategic basis and it would be clearly advantageous to be able to roll out a coherent program to tackle them," said Steven Norris, a former minister for transport in London.

Until London gets a voice, it will remain the only capital city in the Western world unable to champion a transport policy of its own. As Tony Banks, the Labour MP for Newham North West and the last chairman of the GLC, points out: "You can ask the mayors in New York. the rush hour crawl through the Paris or Tokyo what they have and they will say: a voice. Without one, London's case will not be beard."

Barry and the fickle finger of fame

Tou would know Barry Evans. Not his name, perhaps, but you would know the face - fresh, open, good-looking in a pedestrian way. Barry was famous once, a star even, at least in the domesile firmament. He began the Seventies as a television doctor (Doctor in the House and then Doctor at Large) but became a teacher in the ITV sitcom Mind Your Language.
The situation was a room full

uf foreigners learning English; the comedy was... a room full of foreigners learning English. The most notable foreigners in the series were Francoise Pascale and her breasts and Evans found them quite a handful. The programme was axed in 1979 (revived for a season in the mid-1980s), Evans dropped out of sight and that was pretty much the last the public knew:

But life out of the limelight went on, and a week ago, Barry Evans went to work as usual That was the last his friends and neighbours saw of him. On Monday, police in

Leicestershire stopped three people driving Evans' car - a Jreg Montego (not very Hollywood) - and went to his house, a bungalow in the village of Claybrooke Magna, Leicestershire. They found Evans' body that night, arrested the three on suspicion of murder, and ordered a post-mortem.

The actor was back in the spotlight - Mystery of TV Doc's Murder plastered across



The untimely death of a Seventies sitcom star this week highlights the temporary nature of celebrity. says **Emma Daly**

liked him. I remembered him from Mind Your Language and was gobsmacked when I saw him sitting in one of our cabs," Susan Middleton, who works at Crest Taxis, was quoted as saying. "At first, people knew him as Barry the actor, but over the years, he became Barry the tazi driver.

He had played that role in his last film, The Adventures of a Taxi-Driver, a sub-Carry On tits 'n' titters flick circa 1975, and a comedown from his movie debut. Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush, an "adolescent romp" that became a cult hit. He starred in both with Judy Geeson, with whom he is said to have had a long affair. They never married

Despite the post-mortem, police do not yet know how Evans died. His body was found, clothed, in his sitting-room, and there were no obvious signs of a break-in. Police have released on bail the teenage girl and two men who were in the Montego and are waiting for the results of tests on Evans' body. Locally, everyone knew

neighbours said: "He was modest and never really taiked about it. Evans had not given up hope of a come-back - "What I want is a long run in EastEnders," he

said last year. He had discussed

about Evans' TV work, but, as

stay out of the business for a little while, basically because he was stereotyped. We were beginning to talk about getting his career back on track."

Starring in a Seventies sitcom is apparently the televisual equivalent of sailing the Bermuda Triangle. Richard O'Sullivan was Man

About the House with Paula Wilcox and Sally Thomsett, the Caroline Quentin and Lesley Ash of the Seventies. Neil Morrissey and Martin Clunes should take note - Richard was so successful that be was given his own show, Robin's Nest. But in 1994, the People reported that Richard had spoken from a clinic of his decline to being a hard-drink-

Paula Wilcox still works, in Life After Birth on Channel 4, and in children's television, but Sally Thomsett's claim to fame has been a spread in Hello! to celebrate giving birth at the age of 46. This might not be unrelated to the fact that Wilcox played Chrissy, the sensible one, and that Thomsett played Jo, the dizzy blonde. As Tessa Wyatt, O'Sullivan's subsequent blonde, in Robin's Nest, put it: You pay the penalty of becom-ing identified with a particular character so that people find it difficult to see you in any other

the tabloids, illustrated by that familiar, winsome grin.

"He was quiet, but everyone the books - he had decided to screen. "The Jo image has been the books - he had decided to screen." very useful," she said. "I've been treated as a bimbo for years - and, I must say, it's rather pleasant. I've never carried my own suitcase."

The type-casting seems to have been particularly severe in the Seventies sitcom scene, perhaps because so many of the comedies were based on such old-fashioned caricatures - all men gagging for it, all women fighting them off, all foreigners stupid or strange, all homosexuals screaming queens, all doc-tors male and all nurses female.

What hope was there for lan Lavender (Private Pike) after Dad's Army, or for Melvyn Hayes (Gloria) after It Aint Half Hot Mum? The latter appeared (in the Daily Mail) under the headline: "After six kids, maybe they won't think I'm gay

In gay . Then there were fewer channels and fewer bours of airtime but more money to lavish on long-running home-made serials. The companies milked their comic actors for all they were worth, placing them in show after show until the public finally cracked and turned off. And if the actor is not pulling

in the punters he is out: Dennis Sellinger, a talent agent who started in the business 61 years ago, said: "People do become unfashionable - it's part of the business we're in. Someone like Barry, who was out of steam, is not of value. It's nothing to do with talent."

Barry Evans was no Simon Dee, fallen from grace and riches to the gutter. Evans sank gently into decline, it seems, moving to the bungalow in Claybrooke Magna four years and working first for Crest Taxis before setting up on his own. His co-star, Françoise Pascal, had a bumpier ride. The parties went on but the parts dried up. She moved to the United States, discovered cocaine, beat her addiction and shopped ber fellow celeb users to the News of the World.

Ms Pascal too is still nn the books at Mr Knight's agency, but has had nn acting work for years. "Even Celebrity Squares don't call me anymore," she told the Mail. "And I used to be queen of those game-shows."

Mr Sellinger is philosophical. TV can be a monster. While it can make people big it can also kill them," he said. And once they have sunk into obscurity, sad to say, they normally hit the headlines only when they die. There is the odd exception, though.

When a character in Dawn French's sitcom The Vicar of Dibley said: "There basn't been a bus through the village since Hughie Green died," the entertainer re-surfaced, demanding an apology from the BBC. "I would be grateful if you would inform people that I am very

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which took commuters along

the Thames from Greenwich to

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in the early 1990s after London

Transport refused to extend

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business & city **BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER**

Labour thinks again about ending BT ban

Business Correspondent

The Labour Party is retreating from its policy to allow an early end to the ban on British Telecom broadcasting enter-tainment down its phone lines after fears by shadow ministers that the approach could kill off

In a clear shift in its approach, Labour has signalled a much more sympathetic stance towards the cable companies after a new and serious threat to their business emerged in the shape of digital terrestrial television. The move will be met with huge relief in the cable industry which has spent two years intensively lohbying Labour on

At its party conference in 1995 Labour stunned the cable companies by revealing an agreement giving BT, chaired by Sir Iain Vallance, a phased end to the hroadcast ban in return for the group's commitment to extend fibre-optic "superhighway" links into schools.

An influential report a couple of years ago by the Trade and Industry Select Committee BT. "Digital satellite television also suggested the barr should be reviewed in 1998, giving rise to the possibility that the restriction would be lifted.

There were howls of protest from cable companies on the

grounds that allowing BT to orities in offering television compete in the television market would prejudice their computer compression techniques. £12bn, 10-year, investment programme to bomes. So far about balf the cash bas been spent. The Government's policy is to wait until 2001 to review the ban, with no guarantee that it will be removed.

Sir Leon Brittan, European Trade Cummissioner, said be saw nn reason why a global telecommunications trading agreement should not be reached by today's deadline. He was speaking in Geneva as negotiators expressed doubts that an accord could be reached because of the tough line the US had taken at the talks. The US wants freer access to dumestic markets in many countries before agreeing a pact. Sir Leon said it would be "crazy"

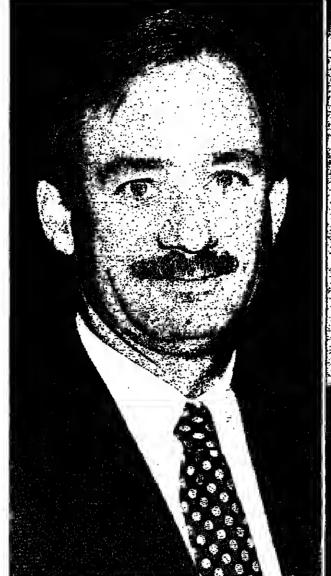
However Geoff Hoon, the Labour technology spokesman, said yesterday that the whole in-dustry bad changed rapidly since the original "deal" with and digital terrestrial television are going to make a fun-damental difference. If I was a cable company I'd be seriously nervous at the moment.

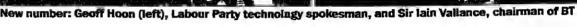
services using sophisticated computer compression technology may have changed. "The other question bere is what BT now wants. In their recent trials of interactive television in Colchester they seem to have found people didn't want to sign up for movies through the service. They seem to be evaluat-

ing the future for the project."
Though the trials to 2,500 bomes ended last June, BT bas yet to decide the future of the technology. One suggestion is that it is much more likely to be used to provide high-speed Internet access services through copper phone wires than broadcast entertainment.

Mr Hoon said Labour was still committed to reviewing the ban next year if the party wins power, but it would do so m the light of new developments in the telecommunications industry. A favourable outcome for the group now seems much less likely. However Mr Hoon insisted the schools agreement with BT still stood.

The threat from digital ter-restrial television, which by-passes cable or satellite delivery methods, has already hit cable share prices heavily. Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB has linked with Granada and Carlton to bid for a licence to offer a block of digital services using the





technology. BT also has links with BSkyB and one theory was that the telephones giant may have abandoned its television ambitions for fear of damaging its links with the satellite

The Trade and Industry Se-

lect Committee is also reviewing its approach to the broadcast ban and held bearings with BT and the cable operators last week. Labour's policy was broadly modelled on the committee's previous conclusions. Martin O'Neill, committee

direction. However be said one ques-

chairman and a Labour MP. said

it would be wrong to charac-

change. News of the proposed

after Williams put in place a new

£1bn banking facility earlier

Williams also made a forecast

prevented BT from investing heavily in fibre-optic links. He terise the move as a shift of added:

"The truth is that BT has invested quite a lot anyway. Cirtion which would feature in the cumstances have changed since committee's conclusions was whether the ban bad actually so much of a problem."

Pearson scandal prompts disbelief in City

Nigel Cope

The City vesterday poured score on Pearson's explanation for the accounting scandal at its Penguin books division in America saying it was "unbelievable". Media analysts expressed

disbelief that the accounting scandal, which was revealed on Thursday and has led to a £100m charge against Pearson's 1996 accounts, could possihly have been masterminded by one person, in a relatively junior position and with no apparent financial motive.

Pearson yesterday confirmed that the elaborate scheme had been conducted by a woman in the accounts receivable division of its Penguin USA business in New Jersey.

Over a period of six years she had been granting unauthorised discounts to booksellers in return for early payment. Pearson said yesterday: "At

this stage this is how it seems from how she has explained it. But the investigation is con-tinuing and until it goes further one cannot be absolutely sure." One analyst said: "I don't

think they can just brush it un-der the carpet like this. They can say what they like but do we believe them? Just a brief look at this tells you that something smells. I find it unbelievable that one little old lady did this for nu financial motive."

Pearson said vesterday that no other employees at Penguin USA had been suspended. However, it repeated its intentioo to take the appropriate action should more details emerge

The company has yet to make a decision on whether to take legal action against Arthur Andersen, its former auditors, A spokesman for the Andersen office in Cbicago said: "We are unable to comment on this matter as it is not our policy lo comment on client affairs.

It is also not yet clear whether American book retailers who did not receive the discounts might take legal action against Pearson for failing to treat at retailers on equal terms as agreed under an undertaking with the American Booksellers Association in 1994.

It is also unclear if senior management at Penguin USA were aware of the accounting scheme. Peter Mayer, who retired as chairman of the division late last year, was unavailable for comment vesterday.

800

2 3 3 -

He also suggested BT's pri-BellSouth sizes up Vebacom

Chris Godsmark

BellSouth, the largest regional phone company in the US, is evaluating a de:.1 to join Vebacom, the German telecommunications partnership, following the withdrawal by Cable & Wireless from the alliance. C&W pulled out of Vebacom

a week ago blaming "differences in priorities" with Veba, the German utility giant and its partner in the venture. The two sides had clashed over the inclusion of RWE, another large utility, in the link-up and the German companies ambitious plans to invest billions of Deutschmarks building a fixed telephone network. Veha is to pay C&W £820m to buy out its 45 per cent stake in Vebacom.

The move by C&W has already been seen by analysts as the precursor to a shift in the pattern of worldwide relecommunications alliances, with widespread speculation that the British group is soon to joint the Global One partnership between Deutsche Telekom, France Telecom and Sprint of the US.

Sources suggested BellSouth's interest in Vebacom was a natund progression in its German ambitions. The company, hased in Atlanta and providing local phone services to 21 million customers in nine US states, already has a mobile telephony partnership with Veba in the E-Plus alliance. BellSouth took a 21.4 per cent stake in E-Plus in 1993.

BellSouth, the sources claim, had held negoliations to partner Veba in fixed phone lines before

the C&W tie-up to form Veba-

com. The US operator has ag-

Statistics as of 14 February

also has a strong enough balance sheet to fund the likely £500m cost of joining Vebacom, with post-tax profits last year of \$2.86bn (£1.8bn).

A spokesman for BellSouth declined to comment on the development. "We talk to everybody and there's no secret in that but we never discuss speculation."

group, SBC, had been put forward as a possible new partncr in Vehacom. However, one senior executive close to the alliance dismissed the idea as ~unlikely~.

C&W Communications, the £5bn group formed out of the merger of its Mercury Communications subsidiary with three ca-ble companies. Martin Hayton, 41. is to become director of human resources. He is currently personnel director for Hong Kong Telecom. in which C&W has a near 60 per cent stake.

Chubb price tag hits Williams shares

Tom Stevenson City Editor

Williams shrugged off criticism an initial thumbs-down by markfailed to buy Racal, which then owned the locks and alarms group, for little more than half its latest cash and shares offer.

Roger Carr, chief executive,

Another regional US phone

Separately, Cahle & Wireless yesterday revealed the third senior executive appointment at

cury's head of personnel, Robert Johnston, had been seen as the most likely internal candidate, but his appointment had been rejected by Dick Brown, C&W's chief executive. It has also emerged that Christopher Chadwick, Mercury's head of customers services, resigned from the company just before Christmas for "personal reasons". Peter Howell-Davies, Mercury's chief executive. has been taking responsibility for the customer services job, a key role in Mercury as it battles with BT and other rivals, until the formation of gressively built up a portfolio of alliances and investments in 17 for April. C&W Communications, planned

While welcoming the commercial logic of the deal, how-

yesterday that it was overpaying ever, a 10 per cent fall in for Chubb as the market gave its Williams after the deal was conagreed £1.23bn takeover bid firmed underscored worries about the price being paid. ing its shares sbarply lower. With no underwriters for the Five years ago Williams narrowly share element of the combined cash and paper offer, yesterday's 35.5p tumble in the value of Williams' shares to 302.5p wiped almost £70m from the value of the offer.

pledged £40m of integration benefits by the end of next year and said achieving that level of profit enhancement would ferent territories, creates the sharply reduce the apparently world leader in fire protection demanding multiple of earnings mainly old-Commonwealth its recommended bid implied. Analysts thought that was a

benefits of merging the two brands, both strong in North America. Mr Carr said it was a perfect fit, giving an important boost to Williams' ambitions in the Far East, where Chubb had

created a strong business from its Australian base. Williams' offer, which it said represented a 37 per cent premium to Chubb's market value before rumours of the deal sent its shares soaring earlier this week, is based on two Williams shares and 704.12p in cash for every three Chubb The acquisition of Chubb, shares. After yesterday's fall in which still has to clear regula-tory hurdles in a number of dif-Williams' share price yesterday, the bid valued Chubb at 435.7p a share, or £1.23bn. Chubb's

shares closed yesterday 5p highand security. It puts Chubb's er at 425p. The jump in Chubb's share price on Thursday by 79p, or 23 per cent, to 420p is being in-

of its 1996 profits yesterday, esexceptional items of £243m from sales of £1.82bn. Earnings per share are expected to be 39.1p, or 24.1p adjusted for a £97m exceptional disposal

profit, and a final dividend of 9.25p will be proposed. As well as improving Wil-

liams' geographical spread, Chubb takes the group into new security and fire protection product areas. In addition to shared areas such as fire extinguishers, locks and control pan-els, Chubb bas strong positions

ter huilding society, acquired for £1.7bn in 1995. Pre-tax profits

leapt from £1.65bn to £2.51bn in the 12 months to December,

in line with analysts' expecta-

tions, although a final dividend of 9p, taking the total to 13.2p,

was slightly better than forecast.

to "benchmark" Lloyds against

the best companies in America, including Coca-Cola and Gen-eral Electric. "By benchmark-

ing with these companies, we

bave raised our standards. We

have sbot from a higher level than ever before." As part of this, Lloyds has introduced a

new measure of its performance. "economic profits",

which attempts to factor in the

risk-weighted cost of capital, put

at 10.1 per cent for the bank.

This showed profits rising 69 per cent to £1.06bn last year.

an additional £39m to cover

claims following the 1994 pen-

sions "misselling" scandal, tak-ing its total provision to £200m.

Lloyds said it was setting aside

Sir Brian said he was aiming

vestigated by the Stock Ex- in electronic monitoring and manned guard services which bid is thought to have leaked will complement Yale and Kidde's leading positions in hotel security and hazard sensors. Mr Carr said £26m of the ex-

pected £40m two-year profit-enhancement programme would timating profit before tax and come from integration benefits such as the consolidation of regional corporate administra-tion. At least £7m would come from better operational performance, where Williams is expected to have plenty of scope to increase Chubb's lower mar-

A further £7m is slated for profits from additional sales as the combined companies benefit from wider distribution channels. The cost of achieving those on-going benefits will be a one-off £30m.

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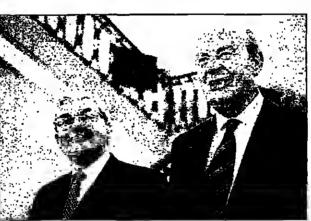
businesses together with Williams' Yale and Kidde conservative estimate of the Lloyds TSB staff set for bonanza

Magnus Grimond

The 82,500 staff at Lloyds TSB could pick up around £2,500 each after Britain's biggest domestic bank yesterday an-nounced record profits of £2.51bn for last year. Lloyds is setting aside £100m of its profits to share with employees. Including a profit-related pay scheme and the recently announced an inflation-beating 5 per cent pay rise, the bonanza could add up to 16 per cent to

an average salary of £15,500. However, the news failed to allay union fears about job cuts in the wake of the merger in late 1995 between Lloyds and TSB. Noel Howell of the banking union Bifu said the profit sharing might only be a one-off, which would not increase employees pensionable salary. They are going to have to go further than that and the key issue is job security." Bifu claims 10,000 jobs and 650 branches are at risk.

The Bill to enable the merg-



Defending the cuts: Sir Brian Pitman chairman and Sir Peter Elwood (left) chief executive Photograph: Andrew Buurman

er legally to go ahead will have its second reading in early March and the union is lobbying Parliament to include a requirement that local communities are con-

sulted before branches close. Lloyds axed 4,200 jobs last vear and Sir Brian Pitman, who this month became chairman of the bank, defended the cuts.

cuts were in prospect this year. Sir Brian was speaking as

"We get new competitors arriving every week. You only keep jobs by winning", be said. Lloyds warned that further job

Lloyds unveiled the first full-year results of the combined businesses of Lloyds, TSB and the former Cheltenham & Glouces-

Investment column, page 23 CURRENCIES

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bution from Cheltenham & Glouces ter, the former building society for which Lloyds paid £1.7bn in 1995. The addition of C&G, which raised its profits contribution from £67m to



JEREMY WARNER

entrepreneurs tickle

their tummies is just

not credible. They'll

fight like alley cats'

what's on it, however, the difficulty is separating the wheat from the chaff, the nonsense and noise from the well-informed and perceptive. One person who ought to fall into the latter category is Andrew Grove, chief executive of Intel. What he says has to be That the present holders of commercial treated a bit carefully because as the world's largest producer of computer micro-chips. wealth and power are his commercial interest is in getting as just going to roll over many people wired as possible, regardless of what use or value it is to them. and let the new generation of

Even so, he's got an interesting take on how the Internet is going to change many of our industries. Two of the most obvious

Everyone these days seems to have an copinion about the Internet and its po-

tential to transform the world. Like much of

examples are media and banking.

What the Internet does is provide an alternative method of distribution for media products. Because relatively few people so far are hitched up, its impact is for the time being limited. But once a certain critical mass is reached, which might be put at 20 to 30 per cent of households, then Dr Grove foresees almost boundless potential for by pass-ing traditional distributors/packagers of

Take our own industry - newspapers. The Internet already allows you to download most national newspapers each morning, and many foreign ones as well. Furthermore, it many foreign ones as well. Furthermore, it about hope than reality - its real commer-will eventually allow you to unbundle es-

ing your newspaper, perhaps antomatically, from a series of different ritles. This in itself could transform the economics of newspapers. Add in the fact that a very large

proportion of classified advertising is likely to disappear onto the Internet, and newspapers as presently configured could well be n trouble. If this is true of the media, it is equally

so with hanking and many other service in-dustries. What this means in economic terms is there is likely to be a quite significant shift of wealth away from established centres of value to new and younger ones. The Internet provides a powerful tool for attacking entrenched and dominant market positions. But before we all get too carried away with Dr Grove's starry-eyed predictions it should be pointed out that there are two rather large constraints on the Internet's power to reconfigure the global economy.

The first is a simple commercial one. Joel de Rosnay, director for development at France's Cite des Sciences et de l'Industrie, reckons that by the turn of the century, some \$200bn will have been invested world-wide in Internet infrastructure. But the amount of commercial revenue generated by it will still be stuck at just \$5bn. What this tells us is that for the time being, the Internet is more

spent on it. If they haven't already, bankers and other financiers are eventually going to economic fundamentals of Microsoft's busiand other financiers are eventually going to cotton onto this and the very optimistic business plans on which many Internet projects are based will he challenged. This is going

More hope than reality in Internet revolution

to put quite a hreak on growth. The second constraint is a more brutal one. That the present holders of commercial wealth and power are just going to roll over and let the new generation of Internet en-trepreneurs tickle their tummies is just not credible. They'll fight like alley cats to keep

their traditional markets and power bases.

In other words, there will be a very sizeable backlash, taking political as well as com-So although Dr Grove is undoubtedly right about the transforming powers of the com-munications revolution, he may well be wrong about the timescale. Progress is unlikely to be as rapid as he and others at the cutting edge of these new technologies hope and be-

What should we be making of the ex-traordinary rise and rise of the Mirosoft share price, which has doubled in less than a year? In part it reflects a wider phenomenon - America's extraordinary stock market bubble. It's also got something to do with hero worship of Bill Gates. Feted and sought after where ever he goes as a genius

ness and prospects.

I should be careful not to be churlish here, for these are undoubtedly excellent. There can be few businesses in the world where they are as good. Microsoft still has a virtual monopoly of PC operating system software - and monopoly has always been the touchstone of business success. It is also rolling out some promising new products. But can any of this justify the heady valuation Microsoft now commands? The probable answer is that so long as the present boom in US stock markets continues, the Microsoft share price is safe. But if it should falter, then the price looks highly vulnerable.

The two things are linked in more ways than might be thought, for quite a few of the factors that drive the American stock market boom also drive the Microsoft share price. A recent study suggested that perhaps as much as half of US economic growth is being generated by the new computer and communications technologies. While this may be an exaggeration, the point is well made. The American corporate and entrepreneurial renaissance is a technology driven phenomenon. The belief - now quite widely held in the US, I kid you not - that the business cycle, and therefore the stock market cycle, is a thing of the past, is fed by companies like and guru, he's now worth more than \$20bn. | Microsoft, demand for whose products just

But as everyone knows sentiment can change very rapidly. Here are some of the factors that might eventually swing it against Mr Gates. No monopoly can go on forever. and there are already signs that the Microsoft one is under threat. Ironically, one of these threats comes from the Internet, where there can be no monopoly. Networking can as easily be accomplished using so called "dumh" terminals as through a PC, for the computer power can be supplied centrally. In other words, there may be no long term need for highly priced PCs, the lynchpin of Mi-

crosoft's market. The other threat comes from Mr Gates himself, who is showing an increasing propensity to use Microsoft as a way of indulging his fancy. Money is being poured into Internet related projects and the pursuit of artificial intelligence like there's no tomor-row. As Mr Gates himself puts it; "We are in a good position to take a very long term view and invest properly in these things". Whether this is another way of saying that Microsoft can afford to squander its mon-cy remains to be seen. Not that anyone can object, given that Microsoft has no need of funding from the capital markers and is still 24 per cent owned by its founder. Nor given his track record can anyone challenge the Gates vision of the world. But does it add up to good long term shareholder value?

Last-ditch

attempt to

avert US

air strike

Virtually non-stop negotiations

continued yesterday to prevent

the potentially devastating

strike by American Airlines pi-

lots due to start at midnight last

night, that would shut down the

largest US carrier and cost the

country \$200m (£123m) a day.

of a Federal mediator ap-

proached the deadline, pressure

was mounting on President Bill

Clinton to use his emergency

powers and declare a 60-day

cooling-off period, during which

American's operations would

carry on as normal while arbi-

trators came up with a settlement hinding oo both sides. The White House yesterday

was refusing to tip its hand, as Kenneth Hipp, chief media-tor, professed himself "some-

what more encouraged" by

developments. But, Mr Hipp

warned, "major obstacles" still

remained, and management

and pilots' union alike have re-

The main sticking points are

pay - where the company has

offered a 6 per cent rise between

ortea aext to no progi last few days.

As talks here under the aegis

Rupert Cornwell

Washington

Opel and Mercedes-Benz raided over 'price-fixing'

Katherine Butler Brussels

European Commission competition inspectors have carried out dawn raids on the offices of the German car makers Mercedes-Benz and Opel in connection with allegations of price- and distribution-fixing, EU officials revealed yesterday.

Brussels sources warned that both companies could be stripped of their exemptions from EU rules that ban exclusive distribution arrangements if inquiries produce evidence of

illegality.

The raids followed complaints from consumers who were repeatedly blocked when they tried to purchase the models they wanted in countries where they can be bought most eheaply. It is understood that complaints allege breaches of

tive dealership and servicing agreements between manufacturers and sales outlets but only subject to strict conditions aimed at giving car buyers more opportunity to shop around to take advantage of the single European market.

EU competition Commissioner Karel van Miert renewed the car industry'a longstanding "group exemption" from normal competition rules in June 1995 hut insisted on giving dealers greater independence from manufacturers and specifically banned any impediments to the right of consumers to purchase a car anywhere in the

News of the crackdown on Onel and Mercedes came as the Commission complained that so-called parallel trade in cars. which occurs when nationals of one EU country opt to buy a vethe EU's 1995 ruling on car dis- hicle in a cheaper country, is be-

many, Spain and the Nether-lands.

Price comparisons of the EU's 75 best-selling models released by the Commission yesterday shows a gap of more than 20 per cent between the lowest and highest prices for 40 cars. On 1 November list prices varied most for Fiat, Ford, Opel, Citroën, Volkswagen, Nissan and Mitsubishi cars. And prices for some small cars varied by more than 30 per cent.

Britain has joined the ranks of the most expensive member states in which to buy a car according to the survey. The Commission says this is due to price hikes by manufacturers and the rise in sterling's value. Fifteen of the 75 models looked at were most expensive in the UK including the Onel Corsa and Astra, the Peugeot 106 and 306, and the Renault

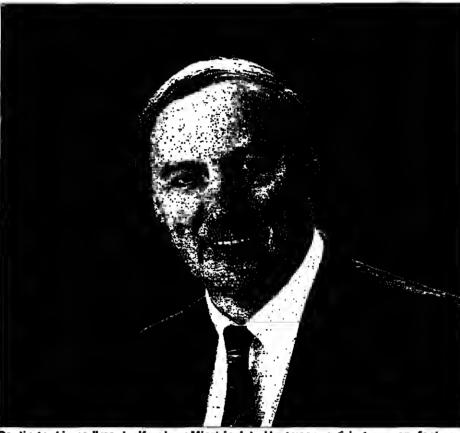
tribution. This permits restric- mg blocked in Belgium, Ger- for only three models: the BMW 730i and Volvo's 850 and 960. Buyers will find no bargains in Germany or France which

had the highest list prices in the EU. Both countres each had 30 of the dearest models. By contrast, the Netherlands and Portugal are the cheapest countries

The list price for an Opel Astra in Britam was 32.8 percentage points higher than for the equivalent in Portugal. The difference is attributed to exchange rate-induced price

The Commission's sixmonthly car price surveys aim to highlight the opportunities for parallel trade and to pressorise car makers into creating a genuine single market.

Volkswagen and its subsidiary Andi are already under investigation for alleged malpractice in relation to pricing and dis-Megane. Britain was cheapest



Booting out impediments: Karel van Miert insisted last year on giving car manufacturers greater independence and conferring on car buyers the freedom of Europe

as rival suitors press claims

The battle for control of Nottingham Forest enters a new phase this weekend with both of the rival groups planning to meet shareholders and the ciuh's supporters association:

The Albert Scardino-led consortium is due to meet shareholders and the supporters' association in the next few days in an attempt to enlist support for its £18m offer.

The meetings will be hosted by Sir David White, chairman of Mansfield Brewery and the Nottinghamshire Health Authority who Mr Scardino this week recruited to be chairman roles for this bid is being handled. What means west means thority who be chairman professional management to loan.

cessful. The Scardino consor- done on the pitch." tium hopes to use the meetings to persuade shareholders on the merits of its offer ahead of the

decide the future ownership of the club on 24 February. The Scardino consortium will meet the supporter association on Sunday. On Monday it will host an "informal dinner" for

crunch emergency meeting to

shareholders at the club. Sir David, a shareholder in Forest as well as an enthusias-

The rival group bidding for Forest, led by Nigel Wray and local author Phil Soar, is also lobbying shareholders' support. It too will meet the supporters on Sunday with a meeting with shareholders to follow.

The Wray-Soar consortium has criticised the Scardino offer saying that two-thirds of the cash is in return for redeemable preference shares which will be redeemed by the venture capitic supporter, said yesterday: "I tal backers when Forest is floated. It claims this structure means that £13.6m of the investment is little more than a

Weekend of wooing for Forest Footsie gallops to record high

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Shares on Wall Street could not sustain their latest dramatie surge yesterday. But their gain the previous day, along with a further slide in sterling's exchange rate, helped shares in London set a record.

The FT-SE 100 index climbed by nearly 14 points to close at 4,341. Across the Atlantic, investors took advantage of the Dow Jones index hursting through the 7,000 barrier on Thursday to take profits yesterday, despite new figures sig-nalling the absence of immediate inflationary pressures in the American economy. The index was 12 points lower

at 7,010.89 by mid-morning. The Dow's gain of more than 1,000 points in only four mouths reflects investors' optimism about the strength of the US economy, although some ex-perts remain fearful that share prices could fall sharply from their giddy heights. Just two months ago Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Re-

tional exuberance" of the financial markets. A batch of statistics yesterday showed an unexpected fall in prices charged by manufacturers in January, along with flat industrial production and unchanged consumer confidence. The general picture was one of

steady growth putting no pres-

serve, warned about the "irra-

sure on the Federal Reserve to increase interest rates in the near future. Jonathan Basile, an economist at HSBC Markets in New York, described the figures as "Fed-friendly". Marilyn Schaja, an economist

at Donaldson, Lufkin and Jen-rette, said: "The economy is slowing down from the torrid pace of the fourth quarter." The harsh winter explained

the absence of any increase in industrial output last month. Snow and storms led to a fall in hours worked in manufacturing

and mining. Energy output rose sharply, also thanks to the weather, and output of business equipment mainly computers and trucks built up speed. Analysts said the

total production figure was likely to rebound in February. Even with the wintry slowdown, 1997 and 2000, and the pilots manufacturing output last month was 5.1 per cent higher than a year earlier. .

Yet the continuing recovery in industry has not yet fed through into higher prices at the factory gate. Separate figures showed that these fell by 0.3 per cent last month, their first decline since October 1994.

Lower oil prices accounted for the unexpectedly good news, and should feed into producer prices for the next few months. Separately, the University of Michigan's index of consumer sentiment was unchanged between January and February.

Market report, page 24

are seeking 11 per cent - and the ardine's plans to replace turhoprops with small jets at its commuter airline subsidiary, American Eagle. If the strike goes ahead, an estimated 40,000 travellers a day

would be stranded. American. whose proposed alliance with British Airways is under regulators' scrutiny, accounts for 20 per cent of all air travel in the US. It has large hnbs at Dallas, Chicago and Miami, and dominates the Caribbean market. The airline cancelled most foreign flights and some round trip domestic flights yesterday.

Between the lines of Pitman's shorthand

Sir Brian Pitman's position at the top of British banking has only been en-hanced by the first full year's performance of Lloyds TSB, the financial and now chairs. As well as being first ship ship is the UK's third-largest life in surrance company and probably took a higger share of the new mortgage range domestic lending to £73.5bn services behemoth he has created market than any other lender last year.

pressive too. Since the December group total. 1995 reverse takeover of Lloyds by TSB, profits have soared 52 per cent to £2.51hn, producing a storming 48 per cent return on average shareholders' equity, close to double the previous year's figure. According to Sir Brian's new economie profit measure, which attempts to measure returns after deducting the risk-adjusted cost of equity, the bostom line has fattened 69 per cent to £1.06bn in 1996.

It is little wonder the bank's shares have outperformed the rest of the stock market by a quarter since the merger, rising another 1.5p to 503.5p vesterday. The raw figures do, however, need more than a little inter-

First off, integration has muddled the waters. Stripping out the 1995 charge of £425m for TSB and another £75m charged last year for restructuring Lloyds Abbey Life, 100 per centowned since last December, would trim the profits growth back to 24 per cent. Within that, probably the biggest boost came from a full-year's contriTHE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Lloyds TSB: at a glance

Market value, £27 (lbn, strare price 508.5p

came from C&G and mortgages now But the headline numbers are im-

That has had the happy effect of increasing the quality of Lloyds' loan portfolio. Arrears at C&G run at around half the industry average, so

ends per store NA NA 13.2

the addition of its mortgage book has helped dilute the effects of Lloyds' ex-

isting problem lending.
Thus bad deht provisions tumbled from £583m to £327m last year. Lloyds is boasting that for the first time, its total outstanding provisions of £2.55bn are greater than the level of non-per-

Share price peace

moves so far, eschewing investment banking and US adventures to focus almost solely on the UK market. He banking and US adventures to focus
almost solely on the UK market. He
continues to search for another building. Two new sites in Windsor and Uping society and possibly another insurance company.

But the cycle never dies and Lloyds' dependence on the UK could prove a handicap when it finally turns. That moment could be close: last year's bad debt charge of 0.4 per cent is a level not seen since 1988, just ahead of the last banking crash.

Meantime, profits this year of £2.95bn would put the shares on a forward p/e of 14. Hold.

Bounce goes out of Grosvenor

While its peers in the managed puh sector have continued their recent relentless rise, shares in the Slug & Lettuce puh chain Grosvenor Inns have had a dreadful year, falling from a high of 285p to a recent low of 165.5p. After a good bounce towards the end of last month to about 220p, half year results yesterday put the boot in once again and the shares sagged 17.5p to 206p.

The fall yesterday came despite a 25 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to rating. £1.10m, struck from a 36 per cent rise in sales to £11.8m. Earnings per share were 17 per cent better at 5.7p and a half year dividend of 3.025p, up 10 per cent, is to be paid.

for its failure to translate a 43 per cent rise in sales at its core Slug & Lettuce it gets out of its funding bind the shares chain into a similar rise in profits. A are high enough.

per St Martin's Lane in London recovered from a slow start and are now beating their budgets but if Grosvenor is really to capitalise on the hrand it needs to roll Shugs out faster than it can currently manage.

That means making quicker progress in releasing funds from the half of its husiness which is going nowhere – some wine hars such as Hodgsons on Chancery Lane and a handful of taverns, which are really nothing more than hog-standard old fashioned pubs. In the hooks at around £12m in total, a sale of those assets would free up much-needed capital for the 20 Slug & Lettuce openings the company promises but arguably can't really afford just yet.

The other main worry to emerge from yesterday's figures was the early exit from the Bar Central concept whose failure was underlined by the discount to net assets represented by the £2m it achieved on disposal Grosvenor also had to pay Inntrepreneur half a million pounds to take five duff pubs off its hands. With all that baggage it is hardly surprising the market won't put the shares oo a Wetherspoon or Regent Inns sort of

On the basis of forecast profits of £2.4m this year, the shares trade on about 16 times prospective earnings per share. That's a discount to the rest of its fashionable sector but deservedly Analysts took the company to task so. Grosvenor is doing the right things, r its failure to translate a 43 per cent focusing on its core brand, but until

In Brief

• The Bank of England yesterday announced a review of the future of British Invisibles, following growing concern in recent years that the City needs a more effective body to promote the financial services industry. The review working party will be chaired by Douglas Hurd, the former foreign secretary who is now deputy chairman of National Westminster Bank.

The Bank of England said the working party was being launched with the agreement of BI itself, the City Corporation and Scottish Financial Enterprise. It will cover promotion of inward investment, improvement of access to overseas markers and better statistics. The retirement of the chairman of BI, Sir Brian Pearse, and its director general, Alison Wright, "presents an opportunity to review the evolution of the promotion of the whole of the

• Jardine Matheson Holdings has sold its half-share in the life assurance group Jardine CMG Life to its joint venture partner. Colonial, for \$163m (£100m). Colonial is making the acquisition

• Halifax Building Society, the UK's higgest mortgage lender, is coming into line with its rivals by cutting interest rates on all its fixed-rate mortgage offerings. Two-year fixed rates now start at 6.45 per cent, down from 7.25 per cent previously, three-year fixed rates at 6.90 per cent down from 7.85 per cent, and fiveyear fixed rates at 7.65 per cent down from 8.45 per cent.

 Renault, the French car and truck maker, warned that its 1996 operating loss would be considerably higher than the market ex-pected because of a difficult economic climate. The company declined to say what it considered to be the market's consensus forecast for its 1996 operating result.

• A government-backed company unexpectedly agreed to cover the entire losses suffered by <u>Kizu</u> Credit Co-operative, once Japan's largest credit cooperative. The Deposit Insurance Corporation said it will give ¥1,034bn (£5bn) to a special bank set up to dispose of the bad loans.

 The World Trade Organisation asked Japan to narrow the gap between taxes on domestically produced liquors and imported ones by 1 February 1998, a Japanese Finance Ministry official

 Inchcape has formed a joint venture with the Bank of Scotland subsidiary NWS Bank to provide car loan facilities and related services. It will be called Inchcape Financial Services.

Market States and a number sident with a second moving 17 cm

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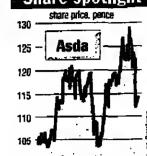
market report/shares

Data Bank

FTSE 100 4341.0 + 13.9**FTSE 250** 4606.0 + 19.3**FTSE 350** 2142.0 + 7.3SEAO VOLUME

915m shares, 50,288 bargains Gifts Index N/A

Share spotlight



Misys stretches to new peak on talk of US connection Is Misys, the high-flying soft- to comment. The shares have ware group, about to plug into been a rewarding investment.

a new American connection? Stories are circulating that talks are taking place which could lead to a much greater US involvement, perhaps even a hid for full control.

As the stock market moved on, seemingly inevitably, to yet another peak Misys rose 37.5p to an 1.137.5p high, pricing the group at more than £965.5m. Towards the eod of last year Misys beefed up its transatiantic operations with two acquisitions, worth £65m. And it has since said it is tooking at a further five possible

But the latest stories do oot seem to be concentrating oo Misys making another take-over swoop. There is talk of a deeper US involvement either through a company buying became aware the Anglomto the group or making a bid.

Dutch group was nursing

huys, although oot necessarily

Five years ago they were 203p; in the past 12 months the price has gained more than

Although best levels were not held Footsie stretched to another closing high, up 13.9 points at 4,341. Significantly, though, the supporting FTSE 250 index has failed to retain its record-baseling thrust

its record-breaking thrust.
After last mooth's exuberance it has produced some lowkey displays and despite a 19,3-point gain to 4,606 it still remains below its record.

Best-performing blue chip was - again - Smith & Nephew, the health group. Another 8p gain took the price to 196p with thoughts about a possible Unilever strike continuing to create the excitement. Since the market

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN stock market reporter of the year

ther 10.5p to 768p. Unilever rose 45p to 1,537.5p, reflecting Dutch in-terest and suggestions it will follow Shell and declare a share split.

a Unilever target, added a fur-

Asda, rumoured to be planning to move into motorway catering, slipped 0.75p to 114p. It is said to be one of the bidders for Welcome Break, the motorway services chain Granada has undertaken to sell to overcome monopoly objec-

climbed 17p, a remarkable run
by its standards. Reckitt & prices of up to £400m mencolman, the household goods
group also suspected of being that Whitbread, the hrewing group which was keen to buy Welcome Break last year, is one of the four contenders.

Granada advanced 11p to 915.5p. NatWest Securities believe Granada shares have further to run with the Welcome Break sale focusing attention on a "sum of the parts" calcu-

The predicted arrival of Williams Huldings at the Chubb Security group sent Williams crashing out of Foot-sie as its shares plunged 37.5p to 300.5p. A place had to be

and Centrica and it bad toll. Cedardata, a computer seemed that the Redland building materials group would be dommed for removal.

However, Williams' expul-sion should only be temporary. When the shares issued for Chubh are counted it should, eveo if any converting mutual societies complicate the calculations, make a swift return. Chubb shares gained 4.5p to

A takeover hid in the rarefied air of investment trusts lifted Pilot Investment Trust 5p to 122p with predator Under-valued Assets 2.75p down at

92.25p. The final stage in the giant four-way demerger is due to be completed on Monday week when shares in the Energy Group, comprising the Peabody coal business in the US and the old Eastern Electricity, start market life.

group, crashed 139p to 123.5p: Dailywin, making watches in

52.5p.
Ashurst Technology jumped maker. Under the deal Ashurst's alloys will be used to the production of baseball as well as softball bats. Copyright Promotions, on its Mr a 14.85 per cent interest. Men US deal, gained another 18.5p to 109.5p.

156.5p.

The strange goiogs-on at held at 45p; Gabriel rose 1p to 10.5p.

Burtonwood Brewery, the 130to 17p. year-old Warrington group, lifted the shares to a 205p peak

at one time. the drink labels group, put oo over an oil services company 3p at 248.5p. Fibernet rose 15p which could transform Wed-3p at 248.5p. Fibernet rose 15p

Taking Stock

Gabriel Trust, on AIMlisted financial group, bas increased its involvement in Ofex traded Chartfield Fund Hong Kong, 30.5p to 58.5p and Fieldens, supplying agricultural vehicles, reversed 13p to tural Management. It has acquired exchange for its own, lifting its stake to 26.11 per cent. 29.5p to 95p; it has completed an intriguing transatlantic tie up with a US baseball bat to small companies. It first revealed its attraction for Chartfield, which embraces the Waverley unit trusts, in December when it picked up Chartfield is run by Mark Flawn Thomas. Its shares

☐ Wedderburn, the property group that has admitted a The highest recorded deal was at 200p and the shares finished at 203.5p. Jarvis Porter, derburn's outlook

在,他是是这种,我们就是这个人,也是这个人,这个人,这个人就是这种的,我们就是这种的,我们也是这一个人,也是这个人,也是这个人,也是这个人,我们也是这种的,我们 1996年,我们就是这种的,我们就是这个人,我们就是这种的,我们就是这种的,我们就是这种的,我们就是这种的,我们就是这种的,我们就是这种的,我们也是是这种的,我

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Arnold anger over 'threat' to finances

Athletics

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Malcolm Arnold, Britain's chief coach, threatened to quit yesterday following suggestions by the Sports Council's chairman. Sir Rodney Walker, that Lottery funding might be withheld from athletics if it fails to sort out its administrative difficulties.

Arnold submitted a bid to the Lottery Sports Fund last month seeking an annual amount of £5.5m to see British athletics through the next eight years. But the resignation of the British Athletics Federation's executive chairman, Peter Radford, against a background of internal dissention, has caused conceru at the Sports Council, where the details of the major world-class performance scheme announced in November are currently being worked

Referring to comments by Walker on Radio 5 Live on Thursday night, where he said that BAF risked "having the tap turned off" if they could not satisfy the Sports Council over their administrative arrangements, Arnold said: "I am get-ting to the stage where I've had enough. Unless something is done soon, from the sport itself and the Sports Council, there will be another departure from athletics. It's so difficult being the person in the middle of the vice. I feel beleagered, torn

betweeo two worlds. "We have superb athletes and coaches. That side of the sport is no problem for me and I want to continue working with it. But there are people trying to tie our hands and feet, threatening to beat us and mouthing threats. I wonder sometimes if they want athletics to be prosperous and successful. If they have the trust in me and other people in the difficulty is addressed.

sport of integrity, it's time to stop the posturing.
"We are already into a new

Olympic cycle. If you do not water the roots, the plants might die. It would make a huge problem in the future. You cannot simple go out and huy oew seedlings."

Walker said the Sports Council had already demonstrated that it was prepared to "put its foot down" when it saw problems within governing bodies, clearly referring to the recent censures of the British Cycling Federation.

"We are watching closely the developments in athletics. Whether or not it would be belpful to starve them of funds at this stage is a debatable question. I wouldn't want to threaten any sporting body. I don't think threatening anyone gets the best out of people."
This has clearly been the

case with Arnold, a dedicated and highly respected coach to athletes including the world high hurdles record holder Colin Jackson. He has been in close contact with the Sports Council in past mooths and has had to make some alterations to his original bid.
The present situation is a re-

flection of two understandable hut differing perspectives. The Sports Council is acutely aware that huge amounts of public money have to be stringently accounted for. Arnold, who sees and talks to athletes every day, knows just how desperately funds are required.

The full eight-year business plan is expected to be submitted to the Sports Council this month. But the Council is known to be uneasy with the BAF structure - particularly the 54-strong Council which can vet all decisions - and it is possible that the sport may oot get all it asks for straightaway until this

ICIS LEAGUE First Division: Billencay v Made-enhead; Bognor Regis v Walton & Hershem; Carney Island v Marlow; Cheshem v Ahing-don Town; Leyton Pennant v Barron Rovers; Molesey v Berkhamsted; Thame v Worthing; Tooting & Mitcham v Basingstoke; Oxfordge v Hampton; Whytelesel v Aldershot; Wolung-hami v Croydon. Second Division; Bedford Town v Baristed Artherte Tackinell v Hungar-rond; Collier Raw & Romford v Wildson; & Ecot.

Touch Charleson autorus processor a rung processor account of the control of the

1.45: 1. RUTH'S GAMBLE (D LOSty) 6-1;

2. Nagobelle 14-1; 3. Captain Marmalede 9-1. 10 ran. 7-4 fav Sousse (4th). 3, 3. (Mrs

9-1, 10 ran, 7-4 for Sousse (4th), 3, 3, (Mrs. Ljewell, Tota: £7.60; £1.30, £3.50, £2.50. Dual Forecast: £20.50. Computer Straight Forecast: £80.71. Thoast: £690.88. Tho: £53.50. Non Runner: Just A Beau. 2.20; 1. ARTIC WHY65 (M. Brennan) 11-2; 3. Whippers Delight 7-1; 3. Darrent The Breve 100-30 tax, 9 ras. 7, 19, (0 Brennan) 2016-6; £20.00. £1.60, £1.60. DE.

nan), Tote: £7,20; £2,00, £1,60, £1,80, DF:

£14.90, CSF: £39.10, 7ncast: £133.82, 7ng:

2.55: 1. PEACE LORD UF 7:dey) 7-4; 2. Clinton 6-4 fax; 3. Super Repler 14-1. 6 ren. 5, 23. (Mrs 0 Herre). Tota: £3.40; £1.00, £1.70, £3.30. Dust Forecast: £1.80. CSF:

SOUTHWELL



Michael Chang fires a forehand during his victory over Sargis Sargsian in San Jose

ing) scan "to see if it's a strong

case of tendinitis or something

worse. At this stage I just know

The injury originated on

Wimbledon's Court No 1 when

Becker played a forehand shot

on the first point of a tie-break

m the opening set of his third

round match against Neville Godwin, of South Africa. Beck-

er suffered a partial tear of the

ulnar extensor tendon in his

Initially Becker was out of the

game for 10 weeks, and then he had to retire during the first

roood when returning in

Bucharest in September. A

month later he woo the Vico-

oa tournament, but then with-

drew from a second-round

match in Ostrava because of

right wrist

that I can't play today".

Becker defeated by wrist injury

groundstrokes were too good for an erratic Krajicek. Jim Courier is another play er who has managed to hold his form after a heetic Davis Cup tie, the difference being that Courier had to come all the way

After defeating the South African Wayne Ferreira, 6-2, appointment for Richard Kra-7-5, Courier said: "It's very rewarding to come half-way across the planet, pick it up and go on.

I left Brazil on Sunday evening at 9 o'clock and arrived here at man's first event of the year end-ed with a quarter-final defeat by Novak, ranked No 67, will

play Ivanisevic in the semi-finals today. The 21-year-old Czech arrived here following Davis Cup duty against India last terday - and will be back on court

weekeod. He began the week with a oarrow victory against Moya, and his confident

from Brazil.

an Thesday, via Zurich. I just needed a couple of good might's sleep." He theo played on Wednesday, on Thursday, yes-

to play in the semi-finals today. Results, Digest, page 31

Rusedski keeps up his run of form

Greg Rusedski powered to a straight-sets victory over the Ca-nadian Daniel Nestor in the second round of the Sybase Open in San Jose as he maintained his impressive run of recent form.

The British No 2, who beat the Mexican Alejandro Hernandez 6-3, 6-4 in his opening match, was even more impressive in disposing of his unseeded former compatriot 6-3, 6-1. The seventh-seeded Rused-

ski, who changed nationalities from Canadian to British, climbed 17 places from 56 to 39 in the ATP world rankings carlier this week after his appearance in the final of the Croatian Indoor Championship. He only lost narrowly then to the favourite, Goran Ivanisevic.

in Zagreb and another extended run in California could see Rusedski eclipse his highestever world ranking of 33, achieved in January last year. Rusedski was due to meet Michael Chang in the quarter-finals late yesterday. The No 2 seed won his second-round match against Sargis Sargsian in straight sets 6-3, 6-4. Sargsian, an Armenian world-ranked No 99, was unable to break Chang's service, although six times in the

second set he reached deuce. Third seed Andre Agassi survived his second three-set test in as many days, beating Sweden's Magnus Norman 4-6, 7-6, 6-3 in the second round.

Agassi, ranked No 12 in the world and winner of the event three times, trailed 3-1 in the second-set tie-break before rallying to stay alive against his 20year-old opponent, ranked 93rd in the world.

Boris Becker and Michael Stich have both promised to play for Germany in their Davis Cup relegation play-off in September, the German Tennis Federation said yesterday. Both were criticised in the German media for oot playing in last weekend's first-round tie oo clay against Spain, which Germany lost 4-1.

TODAY Football

Matches not on pools coupons

DND LEAGUE PN Great Harwood v Bradford Park Avenue; Har-ogate Town v Warrington; Netherfield v Stocksholge: Raddinte Borough v Warkington; Worksop v Ashton Utd. OR MARTENS LEAGUE Promier Division:

DAY MARTENS LEAGUIS Proposer Devisions Action of Greater Revisions. But on Albion of Greater Action of Greater Borough; Dorchaster Ving's Lyon; Gloucester of Hastings; Helesowen Town of Baldock Merthy Tydiff of Sudbury Town; Newport AFC of Carbindey City; Selsbury of Atherstone; Strangbourne of Worcester, Mildland Divisions & Belston of Bedouth; Corby of Stafford; Everstam of Bedouth; Corby of Stafford; Everstam of Bedouth; Grantham Stafford; Evesham v Bedworth; Granthem v Racing Club Warwick; Raunds v Dudley; Rothwell v Moor Green; Sothull Borough v Rodinell v Moor Green; Softwall Borough v Hanckley Town: Stuurbnidge v Stresshed Dy-namo; Sutton Coldfield v Tarmoorth; VS Rug-by v liheston. Southern Division: Bashley v Chencestor: Farekam v Tombridge; Forest Green Rovers v Ertih & Belvedore; Havert v Cander-fort; St Leonard's Starmoort v Floot: Towbridge v Fisher Athletic; Watertoonfile v Yste; West-on-super-Name v Newport (loW); Weymouth v Dardord; Witney v Margate.

1.30: 1. QUEEN OF SPADES (C Llowelyn)
15-8 far; 2. Lively Encounter 20-1; 3. Splendid Thyse 100-30. 12 ran. 6, 3. (N Twiston-Dovest). Totae 52-90; £1-90, £4-00, £1-20. Dual Forecast: £19.50. Computer Straight Forecast: £40.53. fro: £35.60.
2.00: 1. MISTER ODDY (D Fort) 7-2; 3. Lord Dorest 3-1: 3. Thurstle Up 16-1. 4 ran. 8-11 fav Certarily Straig (felt). 13, 4. U (fing). Totae: £4-90. DF: £7.30. CSF: £12.40.
2.35: 1. ADPER #MOLE II Obtains agreement.

2.35: 1. ARFER MOLE (J Osborne) evens

tav; 2. Eulogy 6-1; 3. The Captain's Wish 4-1. 7 ran. 2, hd. U Old). Toles: £1.90; £1.40,

4-1.7 ran. 2, hd. U Old. Totac £1.90; £1.40, £2.20. DF; £7.10. CSP: £8.99.
3.10: 1. OATIS ROBE (A Magare) 10-1; 2. Dantes Cavaller 2.1 fax 3, Jackson Fliat 10-1 8 ran. srt-dt, 14. (M Sheppard). Totac £12.90; £2.50. £1.50, £1.80. OF; £19.40. CSP: £28.64. Incast £19.1.64. Tno: £48.60. Non Rumer: Bet One.
3.45: 1. DENVER BAY (LASpert) 100-30; 2. MBL OF Tullow 2.1 fox; 3. Separior Finish 10-1.6 ran. hd, 23, U Gifford). Totac £4.20. £1.80, £1.60, DF; £4.50. CSP: £9.71.

4.16: 1. EMPRESS OFF (R Durwood): 4-11 fax, 3. Durnos Ning 12-1; 3. Pedallothernotal 14-1. 5 ran. 6. nd. (Mrs M Reveley), Totas: £1.40: £1.70. £3.20. DF: £8.00. CSF:

4.50: 1. DAWN LEADER (G Unton) 7-4 fac.

2. Demien's Choice 14-1; 3. Shebeng 9-1, 16 ren. 13, 7. U Old'. Tota: £3,20; £1,60.

£5.00, £2.40. DF: £49.20. CSF: £29.22. Tho:

2.40: 1. BOLD ACCOUNT (A Dobbn) 3-1: 2. Cogul Lame 7-4 jt fax: 3. KBodin 16-1. 9 mm. 7-4 jt fax Real Tonic (fell, Nr. 6. (G

Moore). Total £4,00; £1,30, £1,60, £1,40.

3.15: 1 ALZULU (A Dobbar) 13-8 far; 2. Dena Point 9-4; 3. Good Vibea 7-4, 5 rps. 5, 14. U FtzGerstril. Tota: £2.50; £2.80, £1.20 DF: £4.60. CSF: £5.15.

3. River Unshion 10-11 fav; 3. Majority Ma-jor 16-1. 10 ran. 12, 9. (Wis S Bradtyme). Tota: £6.00; £1.80, £1.50, £2.40, DF; £4.50, CSF: £10.79. Tro: £32.20. Non Runner Crown

MOTY.
4.56: 1. MAC'S SUPPREME (Michael Bren-

nam 3-1 tax 2. Into The Black 8-1; 3. Thursterpoint 9-1, 18 ran, 2, 31/2, if Murphyl. Tota: £5-20; £1.80, £2.00, £3.50, DF: £10.30, CSF: £26.72, Trio: £183.80;

£10.30. CSF: £26.72. Trio: £183.80; £235.61 carried forward to Newcastle 4.III

Jaciquet: £10,673.50. Placapot: £7.90. Quadgot: £7.90. Place 6: £12.43. Place 5: £10.37.

DF: £4.30. CSF: £7.86. Trio: £8.00

L30: 1. QUEEN OF SPADES (C Llowellyn

ley; Southall v Northwood.
WilesToNLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Beckenham
v Lordwood (2,30); Chatham v Faversham;
Connthion v Canterbury; Ramagate v Crockenhill; Thomesmead v Woodwort; Whitstable v Fumess, League Cop quarter-filmalis: Deal v Stade Green; Herne Bay v Greenwich Borough; Hythe Lith v Cray Wanderers; Sneppey v Turbridge Wells.
LINUIET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE Flest Division: Eastborne Town v Selecy; Halisham v Mree Bridges; Hassocie v Arundet, Horsham v McCa v Anie Oek; Oelwood v Whitehawk; Pescehaven & Telscombe v Shoreham; Portfeld v Lengrey Sport; Southwelv v Salidean; Reid v Langrey Spores; Southwek v Salidean; Wick v Pagham, John O'Hara League Cup fourth round: Burgess Hill v Ringner. Port United Counties LEAGUE Premier Division: Boston Town v Potton; Bourne v Long Buckby; Desborough v Stot-todi; Kengston v Eynesbury; Northampton Spencer v Wootfon; Spaking v Ford Sports; RACING RESULTS FAKENHAM

Stamford v Cogenhoe; Stowert's & Lloyd's Cor-by v Mirrises Blackstone; Wellingborough v St. Nects, Lengtue Cup second mund: Orrey v St. Nets.

JOHN ROBERTS

Munich.

reports from Dubai

The freak wrist injury that eod-

ed Boris Becker's Wimbledoo

campaign last June flared up

again yesterday, causing him to withdraw from the quarter-finals

of the Duhai Open and return

to his team of doctors in

"I can barely open a bottle of

water or shake hands with peo-

ple right oow, and it makes oo

sense to continue and make the

wrist worse," Becker said after

making an appearance oo the

Centre Court to apologise to a

capacity crowd of 5.000 for oot

being able to play against Goran Ivanisevic, the No 1 seed and

Becker, 29, intends to have an

defending champion.

SCREWFLX DRESCT LEAGUE Premier Divi-alous Baristable v Bostol Manor Farm; Bridgeater v Westbury, Bridgort v Caine; Bris-Inggon v Bledford; Chipperham v Twerton; Mangusfield v Emore; Tourton v Paulton; To-ringgon v Backeet,

mier Divinion: Amuthorpe Welfare v Hallam; Belper v Ossett Town; Hudmall v Glasshough-Selby v Amold; Sheffield v Protesting Thack-ley v Hatfield Main, MORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE FIRST DI-

Wingate & Finchley, Clapton v Kingabury, East Thurnock v Wesidasone; Flaclavel Hearth v Lawes; Hardow v Hornchurch; Herdord v Ave-ley; Southall v Northwood. vision: Athenton Colleges v Safurd; Burscougt v Glossop; Darwen v Bootle; Eastwood Han-ley v Chadderton; Holler Old Boys v Blackpool Rovers: Mossley v Kidsgrove; Pernith v St Helens: Prescot v Citherne; Rossendale v Nartwich: Trafford v Hewcasile Town; Vaudhalf GM v Marre Road.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Divi-

4.55 Persuasion

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Pre-

Valurial (six vibries road).

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Totton v Bournemouth FC; Brochenhurst v Romeey; Downton v Coxes; East Coxes v Lymngton; Gosport v
Christchurch; Petarsfield v Eastleagh; Portsmouth RN v Andover; Thatchart v Bernerton
Neath; Whenbrowsk v Membrane

sion: Bury Rown v Stownarder. Clacton v Fak-enham; Feliustowe v Dest; Great harmouth v Harwich & Parkestorr; Sudbury Town v Whos-ham; Sudbury Wanderers v March; Tiptree v Gorlestor: Warbory v Lowestort. Warbor v Hal-stead; Wisbech v Newmarker: Woodbridge v Hadleigh.

LINGFIELD

week I've taken more each day. It's too scary for me." pain in his wrist.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MEDIAND ALLIANCE: Boldmere St Michaels v Stapenhill; Kryper-sley Victoria v West Medlands; Police; Pestall Villa v Chasenow; Bushand Olympur Verschon; Sandwell Borough v Belennet; Shifnal v Finck-ley Antietic; Stratford v Bloswich; Witenhall v Rocester.

v Rocester.

PECHERTION EREMENT NORTHERN LEAGUE
First Divisions Chesnet to Street v Bedingson
Tenters; Consett v Billingson Synthone; Dunston FBV Exangion; Dun-amin South Shields;
RIM Newcaste v Crook; Seafren Red Star v
Cassborough; Tow Low v Stockson; West
Audicand v Whickham; Wardy v Morpeth.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGH LAND LEAGUE;
Crook Dendrium v Bross Favoriers; Editing v Main Cove Rangers v Brora Rangers; Elgin v Naim County; Forres Mechanics v Cleichnacuddin; Fort William v Huritly; Kerth v Peterhead; Lossemouth v Deverorvale; Rothes v Wick

Barry v Welshpoot; Briton Ferry v Bangar City; Cernaes Bayv Caeraes; Cernaran v Cornan's Quay Nomadas; First v Ton Pentre; Lansanti-fadd v kdar Cable-Tel Cardiff; Newtown v Holy-well (2.30); Rhyl v Carmarthen.

SARNOTE RISK LEAGUE Premier Division: Ciferable v Ards; Colerano v Crusadors; Gen-toran v Limield; Pottadown v Genavon. First Division: Ballydars. Commades v Centick Rangers (LIO); Bangor v Newry; Distillery v Lame; Omegh v Ballymena. Lame; Ornegh v Ballymena.

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF RE-LAND Promier Divisions Firm Harps v Der-ry City (7.30); Home Farm Everton v Brey Wanderers (7.30); Sign Rovers v University College Dublin (7.30). MS LEAGUE Premier Division: Liver-

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

performances in Stuttgart and at

ATP Tour Championship in

Hanover and the Grand Slam

Cup in Munich, Becker was

beaten by Carlos Moya, of Spain,

in the first round of the Aus-

the wrist was fine, and in Aus-

tralia it was fine," Becker said,

adding that he continues to ex-

perience pain when he moves to

a new tournament with a differ-

ent surface and different balls.

during a first-round match and

the wrist is a little hetter," he

said. This week, unfortunate-

ly, it got worse and worse. I've

been taking anti-inflammatories.

Usually I take ooe or two a day

and get rid of the pain. This

"Usually I am able to adjust

"In November and December

tralian Open last month.

Rugby Union PIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP France v Wales (2.0) (at Parc des Princes, Paris)

(at Lane COURAGE CLUBS' CHAMP lyn Park v Lydney (2.30); What fedale v Lon-don Watch (2.15), National Lengus Four North: 6 mming-um & Soffmir v Mannhester (2.30); Kandal v Warnester (2.30); Lichfield C230); Nancal v Woncester (230); Lichied v Stoke-on-Trant (230); Prestino Grasshoppers v Nuneston (2.15); Sandad v Sheffield (2.15); Stouthridge v Herefurd (2.30); Winnington Park v Aspettas (2.30), National League Foor South: Berry Hit v High Wyoombe (2.30); Chaftenham v Zebard (2.30); Chaftenham v Zebard (2.30);

Camberley (3.0).
TENRENTS SCOTTISH CHAMETONSHEP Premier Langue Riest Division: Curne v Kawak
(3.0); Jed-Foset v Boroughmur (3.0); Metrone
v Henot's FP (3.0); Watsomens v String County (3.0). Premier Langue Second Divisions:
Edirburgh Academonia v Giasgow Academonias
(3.0); Gasgow High-Karlvasdov Biggar (3.0);
Gelav West of Scotland (3.0); Keled v Dundee
HSFP (3.0). Premier Langue Third Divisions:
Hamemock v Glaegow Southern (3.0); Musselburgh v Selvink (3.0); Peobles v Kirkcakly

(3.0); Shaven's Metwite FP v Presson Lodge
(3.0). Premier Laugue Fourth Division:
Gercottes v Grangemouth (3.0); Haddington
v Gordoniums (3.0); Halbeaut/Joedanhill v My
(3.0); Langtoin v Consciptine (3.0);
ANGLO-WELSH SECOND DIVISION CONP-ETTION Group At Blackhesth v Cross Mays
(1.0); Waterloo v Porthysod (2.15); Group B:
Coverty v Biscionoid (12.0); Group B:
Coverty v Biscionoid (12.0); Group B:
Lindon
v Liandovery (2.15); Yetrodginies v Rugby
(2.30),

plaining about the change in

pressure in the balls from tour-

nament to tournament, Becker

does not blame the Wimbledon

balls for his injury. "The balls at Wimbledon have been made

heavier, but it was just an acci-

dent that could have happened

anywhere, on any surface, at any

jicek, the reigning Wimbledon champioo and No 3 seed here,

who is rehabilitating his career after knee surgery. The Dutch-

the Czech Jin Novak, 6-2, 6-2

Yesterday also brought dis-

tournameot," he said.

SUPERLEAGUE: Ay Scottish Dages v Carditt Devils (6.0); Nothingham Panthers v Mon-chesser Storm (6.0); Shuffield Strelags v New-castle Cobras (7.0); Bracknett Bees v Besingstuke Bloon (6.0). PREMIER LEAGUE: Kingston Hawks v Madway Boacs (6.30); Slough Jets v Solfhull State (6.30); Tetlord Tigers v Swindon leaLords (7.30)

(7.30).

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Casdareagh Kongins v Murrayfield Royals (6.0); Dumines Villings v Palatey Plantes (7.30); Fife Piyers v Whatey Wantors (7.15).

Basketball

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Manchester C Landon Towers (7.30); Newcaste E Streffield Streets (7.30); Hernei & Watk als v Leicester Riders (7.30); Theme als v Leicester Riders (7.30); Thomas Valley Tigers v Chester Jess (8.0); Worthing Bears v Crystal Pelson (8.0).

3.10 JULIET SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,875 added 1m

| 1. 8752-61 BMSSROT (21) (C) G L Moore 6 9 5 ______ S Weltworth 4 2 0604-15 HATTA SURSPINE (1.4) (CD) G L Moore 7 R5 _A Vinetae (S) 6 3 389,000 - CALALIDO (70) R Havis 4 8 13 ______ D Sigs 3 4 3000-05 DREME (ANNERS (12) D R PREDOLÉ 9 8 13 _____ S Sanders 1 5 200-200 STATISTICIAN (7) John Beny 5 8 13 ______ A Cathene 5 - S doctared - SETTINE 8-11 Begsbot, 100-30 Hatta Suneshine, 9-2 Statistician, 14-1 Calasco, 18-1 Young Frederick, 25-1 Downs Carrier

3.45 JACK & GILL COLE HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,325 added 3YO 1m 2f

137-122 MELLEGY RISAS STI AS GER P Milesey 97_M Wildren 4 Y

Plymouth v Liverpool (7,30); Westminster v Nottingham (8,0). Women's Flext Divisions Barlang & Deganham v Hosekin (8,0); Crys tal Patace v Northempton (6,0); London v Not Hugham (6,0); Rhondda v Spethome (6,30); Tharnes Vatiey v Sheffled (5,45).

Other sports TOMORROW

LEAGUE OF WALES: Ebbw Vale v Porthroadog

SRLK CUT PLATE First round: Bramley v Rochdale (3.0); Hull Wingster Rovers v Don-caster (3.0); Hunslet v Huddersfield (3.30); Lancashne Lyrix v Barrow (3.0); Leigh v Swin-ton (3.0); Whitehaven v Batley (3.0); Widnes v York (2.30); Workingson v Dudley Hill (3.0).

Rugby Union . COURAGE CLUBS' CHARPIO

Hockey MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Division: Barford Tigers v Reading (1.0); Cantenury v Southgate (1.0); Havent v East Grasseed (2.15); Hourslow v. Cannock (2.0); Teddington v

Basketball

Other sports

ANY DISCOUNTY OF SHAPE OF CHARLES AND CONTROL TO SHAPE OF CHARLES AND CHARLES

WARWICK

150 New inc 220 let Rules 250 Lets Be Frank

120 Squire Silk

-4 declared Maintan weight 7st 10th True handlein weight Navel 7st 2th.
BETTOR: 4-5 Persussion, 9-4 Glow Forum, 8-1 Harlough Walk, 10-1
Navel

WINDSOR

HYPERION 1.30 Friendship 2.00 Sparkling Spring 2.30 Sall By The Stars 3.05 Mr Wild 3.40 Zambezi Spirit 4.15 Key Player 4.50 Shepherds Rest (nb)

Figure-of-eight course. Level, with sharp turns, and a 200yd run-in.
Course is N of town on A708 near junction 6 of M4. ADMISSION: Club
14; Tattersalle 5 10: Silver Ring 54. CAR PARE: Club 52; remainder 51. SIS RECING

NEWCASTLE

2.05: 1 SAMANID (0 Press) 100-30; 2.
Dambys Gorse 5-2 for; 3. Bend Sable 3-1.
6 run. R. 3/1. (Mass L Stdtoth). Tothe: £3.80; £1.00, £1.40, £1.90. DF: £4.40, CSF: £11.89. Tracest: £23.39. 240; 1. Bell Dambers. 2.46: 1. SARASI il. Chemoda 7: 1: 2. Ramo-bo Waitter 4: 1; Dead-heet 3. Northern Fen 14: 1 & Whothehellsherry 33: 1. 14 cm. 2-1 14-1 & Whothehellicherry 33-1. 14 sen, 2-1 fav loseph's Wine. ½. 3½. (M. Carmoho), Totas: £9.70; £2.50, £1.40, Whothehellicharry £5.70. Northern Fan £2.20. DF: £22.80, CSF: £32.23. Tho: 3-5-7 £90.70; £116.28 cpr by P D Bowen from Haverfordwest. Dyled. ned forward to Newcastle 4.10 today, 3-6-7 £12.60; £116.28 carned forward to Newcostle

£12.60; £13.6.28 camed forward to Newcoside
4.10 today,
3.20; 1. KRW9CHEP BOY (A Clerk) 3-1 tay.
2. Le Sport 5-1; 3. State Of Cauction 4-1;
10 tax, V. Ind. (M Ryan), Totae £3.50; £1.40,
£2.10; £1.70, DF; £16.60, CSF; £17.82; Incast: £58.15, Trio: £36.90,
3.55; 1. ANTONIAS NEELODY (S Webster)
10-1; 3. Doebob 7-2; 3. Antixin Contocose
2-1 faw, 9 ran. 5, 1½, (S Bowring), Totae
£13.60; £3.10, £1.10, £1.20, DF; £24.90,
CSF; £44.21, Tacast: £94.41, Inc £19.30,
4.25; 1. FORZAIR (W Ryan) 7-4 favourite;
2. Shuttlecock; 9-2; 3. Sharp Gezzalle 2-1,
5 ran. 2, 1½, U J TNeidi, Totae win £1.50; 3.56: 1. DUAL INVAGE (R Germy) 6-4 g tor, 3. Rebel King 11-2; 3. Potato Man 9-1 4 ran, 6-4 p to Moonase Force (left), 2, 18. U FrisGeralt, Totac 52-10. DF: £3.30, CSF: £7.69. NR: Regal Romper. 4.20: 1. ASK ME LATER M Foster 11-2; 3. Rheet Invalid nr 10-11 for 3. Relation Ma.

5 ras. 2, 1%. U J O'Neil). Yote: win £1.80; 5.00: 1. STATE OF GOLD (M 7ebb.s) 10-1; 2. Mutahadeth 8-11 lay; 3. Skatton Sovereign 11-4. 7 ram. 5, 21/L (J Hetherton). Toke: £11.60: £4.30, £1.10. DF: £4.50. CSF.

Piacepoi: £16.60. Quadpoi: £4.20. Piace 6: £24.30. Piace 5: £13.23.

£17,17.

3.30: 1. FLEPPANCE (W Marston) 4-5 fav; 2. Rolleston Stade 6 1: 3. Charter Lane 40-1. 7 run. 8, 15, (N Geseleel. Tota: £1.90; £1.30, £3.50. Dual Forecast: £5.30. CSF: 40-0353 LANCASHIRE LEGEND (7) (CD) S Dow 4 R 13... 4.05: 1. CAB ON TARGET (Mr S Sweets) 4-6 fav; 2. Arise 40-1; 3. Pro Bono 8-1, 10 ran. 1%, 11. (Mrs M Reveley). Tota: £1.60; ran. 1%, 13. (Mrs M Reveley). Toter £1.80; £1.111, £4.80, £2.00. DF: £25.50, CSP: £44.35, Trio: £82.50. 4.40: 1. MINTAVI (P Navar) 13-8 fav; 2. Ajdar £6.1: 3. Lord Meditarrough 7-2. 6 ran. 111, 2. (T Donnelly). Toter £2.20; £1.80, £3.20. DF: £14.10, CSP: £22.55. Placepot £28.60. Quadrot £3.00. Place 6: £47.43. Place 5: £6.39.

6LINEBEED FIRST TIME: Broadgate Fiver (2.40). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Note. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Globetrotter (3.45) & Lawra Lotharto (3.45) sent 370m by M. Johnston from Maidelsam, N. Yorks. 2.10 RED ROSE APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 7f

HYPERION

2.10 Hawati Storm 2.40 Spainiard's Mount 3.10

Bagshot 3.45 Globetrotter 4.20 Blues Magic

GOING: Standard. STALLS: 5f & 1m - outside; rest-inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best in sprints.

E Equitack surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.
Course is SE of town on BUTH, Langibeld station adjoins course.
ADMISSION: 5ft. CAR PARK: Club 5ft. remainder free. African weight 7st 10th. True hardings weight into Debt. 7st 8th.
BETTING. 3-1 Humai Storm, 7-2 Lacoustin Legent, 5-1 Lift Boy, 11-2 Povate Flators, 6-1 into Debt, 10-1 Astrail lenader, 12-1 others

2.40 ROMEO CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 3YO 7f

BETTING: 7-2 Servence, 4-1 For Danna, 9-2 Haysman, 8-1 Mr Wild, 9-1 Ein Agapi Moss, 24-2 Footi, 18-1 Silvetta, 20-1 others

4.15 STATES HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4.075 added 2m 5f 6376 THE CHARGE [14] 6 Balling 9 11 13. 44/16-21 HUMBERN YOUTH (17) (CD) & McCourt 9 11 12 139-415 TOO SHARP (22) Mag H Kniest R 11 10 247-415 TOU SHARP (22) Mais H Kright R 11 10... F114-0F CHRICHIONE PORT (6) (C) P Buller 7 11 7... 115-265 JOVIAL IRAN (15) R O'Sdinen 6 11 2... P 20441 SOPHIE MAY (2-0) L Montege Hell 8 10 11... F30-44P BERTHIONER (22) (C) Miss I Returns 10 10 10 ... J F Tide

Key Player & Rubirs Boy Set 13b, Be Surphed Set 11b, King's Countier Set 3b, BETTING: 11-4 Harvallon Youth, 7-2 Sophie May, 5-1 Too Sharp, 7-1 The Counters Rey Player, 8-1 Jodd May, 12-1 Charattown Port, 20-1 others

4.50 RUNNYMEDE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m

40h/mm weight 10st, Tus weights Heef Goff Diamond 9st Rb, Kelly Mac Set 6th. BETTHE: 7-4 More Dash Thereugh, 7-2 Alberthae, 5-1 Shaphords Rest, 6-1 Coins sus Of Resets, 8-1 Kelly Mac, 12-1 Linden's Lotin, 14-1 others

Trying time for Gandolfo

Trying Again, a Cheltenham Gold Cup hope who was due to contest next Saturday's Racing Post Chase, is likely to miss the rest of the season after picking up an infection. The gelding had not run since finishing second in the Rehearsal Chase at

Chepstow in December. "He was found with a pedalbone infection a couple of days ago and will not run at Kempton," David Gandolfo, his trainer, said. "It's bad enough to put the rest of his season in doubt,"



BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Strokesover (2:90). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Royal Salon (3:40) has been sere 224 miles 1.30 KING JOHN NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) (DIV I) £3,150 added 2m 6f 110yds

36-534 MILECRET RIVERS LIST RAPE 6 11 6.
36-534 MILECRET RIVERS LIST RAPE 6 11 6.
30 MIRADII. (127) McS Largymar 5 11 0.
54654 P CHAPILLERE (FR) (28) I TRUMSON JONES 7 11 0.
1-34 FRENDERS PLOT) M HONDESS 6 11 0.
05 FULL OF BOUNCE (26) R HONDES 6 11 0.
0 MIN OF THE MATCH (25) Mrs. J FERNAN 7 11 0.
0 MIN OF THE MATCH (25) Mrs. J FERNAN 7 11 0.
0 MIN OF THE MATCH (25) Mrs. J FERNAN 7 11 0.
0 SALAMAN (FR) (18) 0 TOPING 7 11 0.
0 SALAMAN (FR) (18) 0 TOPING 5 11 0.
0 MIN OF THE MATCH (25) Mrs. J FERNAN 7 11 0.
0 SALAMAN (FR) (18) 0 TOPING 7 11 0.
0 MIN OF THE MATCH (25) Mrs. J G. J L G. J 3 55-30P4 ZP YOUR LP (17) Airs P Toursie; 7 11 0... - 12 declared -ETIBLE 4-5 Friendschp, 6-1 Millereft Riviers, 7-1 Starfa katch, 10-1 Romandi, 14-1 Zip Your Lip, 20-1 others

| 2.00 | KING JOHN NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) (DIV II) | £3,150 added 2m 6f 110yds | 12 | SPANSUNG SPANS (22)G) K Baley 6 11 6 | J Relins | 3 | 305F0 | Mar (USA) (3) | Joseph 6 11 0 | D Styrme | 3 | March Spans (22) (G) K Baley 6 11 0 | D Styrme | 3 | March Spans (23) | Gent 7 11 0 | Laspe (3) | 4 | 360 | BROOKHAMPYON LAME (24) Mis A Bookly 6 11 0 | D Losky 6 | 6 | BEST PUTERVEN (25) N Water 5 11 0 | J F Tibby 7 | 10 | March Spans (27) A James 5 11 0 | J F Tibby 7 | 10 | March Spans (27) A James 5 11 0 | J F Tibby 7 | 10 | March Spans (27) A James 5 11 0 | M March Spans (27) A James 5 11 0 | M March Spans (27) A James 5 11 0 | M March Spans (27) A James 5 11 0 | M March Spans (27) A James 5 11 0 | M March Spans (27) A James 5 11 0 | M March Spans (27) A James 5 11 0 | M March Spans (27) A James 5 11 0 | M March Spans (27) A James 5 11 0 | M March Spans (27) A James 5 11 0 | M March Spans (27) A James 5 11 0 | M March Spans (27) A James (27) A

4 PRISSAM STEEL (8) M Besterox 6 11 0 Photology
52 STORMTFARTHEAMER (18) M Hardeson 5 11 0 M A Finglewid
0-67 GALE STRING (15) R Hodges 5 10 9 T Descentbe (3)
22P422 MARKOUSION 821 C Stroots 5 10 9 G Broadley
46- MRS BARTY (466) C Weedon 7 10 9 M Reference BETTING: 2-1 Sparkling Spring. 4-1 Stormyfeinventher, 6-1 Hericonica, 7-1 Professor Page, 8-1 Over The Wetter, 12-1 Auszenen, Shack Statescoot, 14-1 others /00600 DETRYS PREROGATIVE CLIS A Cards 7 11 3 ACCCO DEPRINS PREPROBATIVE (JES A Carol 7 11 3 ...

RED-62 MONICASMUM (RS) A Janks 7 11 3 ...

O15 MYSINC COURT (BO) Addrew Turnel 6 11 3 ...

JIDDP-0 MY WANDON RSJ MAK CATIPON 9 11 3 ...

25065/-U THE WEUTHERMAN (RS) A JANSON 9 11 3 ...

25065/-U THE WEUTHERMAN (RS) A JANSON 9 11 3 ...

20-426 STROMESH (LC) T P Hedge 8 11 3 ...

CONVANDINE QUIETH (LT) N Sociole 8 10 12 ...

CONVANDINE QUIETH (LT) N Sociole 8 10 12 ...

CONVANDINE QUIETH (LT) N SOCIOLE 8 10 12 ...

SCO-152 JULIS ASSENT RSM N RSM 7 10 12 ... 14 SLEETHORE CALE (60) 7 McGovern 7 10 12 -- 18 declared --SETTING: 7-4 Sall By The Stars, 6-1 Brogson Lady, 7-1 Stroit 10-1 Joils Absent, 14-1 Sections Gale, 16-1 others 3.05 HATCH BRIDGE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS B) 510,000 added 4YO 2m 3511 SERBAIS (USA) (KS) (KS) (D) N Hardeson 11 7... 1 MAYAAN (LA) (D) K Baby 11 4... 2 ELA ARAPI MOU (USA) (LS) (L. Moore 11 0... 114 PAR DANN (USA) (LS) (CD) ANS A Perez 11 0... HISAR C Brons 11 0_ MSARC BOOK 11 0

PAFANCE DISAN ROTSMIREN 11 0

UF24 MR WELD RISAN (22) EMP R ANCHURST

005 PALMHON RISAN (21) I WRSE 11 0

0125 RED RAIK (25) EMP P METHER 11 0

SALTY GERL J Mycro 10 9

6 SALWESTA (24) 1 GHORT 10 R

1,2 Sectioned turs 11 0.

حكدًا من الاعل

caster (2,01): Blueharts v Crostyx (2,01) Bournville v City of Portsmouth (2,301): Brom-ley v Brooklands (1,0); Hull v St Albans (2,0); Indian Gymhliana v Edghaston (2,30); Ioca v ica hockay PREMIER LEAGUE; Guildford Flames v Slough Jets (6.0); Medway Bears v Solihuli Blaze (5.15); Peterborough Pirates v Swindon ice-lorius (5.30). MORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Murraylield Royals v Blackburn Hawks (6.30); Palatey Pi-rates v Fife Piyers (6.30); Whitley Warriors v Durnifres Vikings (6.30). BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chaster Jets v Birmingham Bullets (8.0); Crystal Palaca v Manchester Gants (5.0); Leicester Riders v NBL Man's First Olvision: Notonghem v Brat-n (5.0); Stockon v Oxford (4.0); Ware v Careff (4.0). Women's First Division: Crystel Paleoe v London (3.0); Harlesden v Birming-nam (4.0); Sheffield v Rhondde (4.0). SNOOKER: International Open (Aberdeen). 4.20 DEMPSTERS DIPLATED (CLASS D) £4,900 added 5f DEMPSTERS DIARY MAIDEN STAKES 00-0565 LDGE PERT LAD (8) J Brodger 6 9 10 50/0540- RIFET (225) R INSAM 4 9 10 ... 24 BLRS MAGC (4) (8F) M Bel 3 8 10 _____ 6 Faultoner (5) 2 03300- EMMA'S MSK (119) R Hente 3 6 5 _____ D Riggs 6 5-43 MA VIELE POLICUE (10) W Turner 3 8 5 23433-4 MOPALEA (\$9) (BF) 7 J Naughton 3 6 5..... - 6 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Nopules, 2-1 Blues Magic, 11-4 Me Viole Pougus, 7-1 MB 6, 20-1 Emma's Risk, 33-1 Logie Port Lad 4.55 SWEETHEART HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added filles 1m 4f 160-321 GLOW FORDAY (16) (CD) L M Half 6 10 0 ... Martin Dayer (3) 4

10 8 2 CM

Sevel

eub M

Finally of the Control of the Contro FIG. 1/ Marrier a. 1. Linguista, St. Marrier St. Marri The state of the Page 12 man.

155 YENSHAM MOVICE HEREA Del tota (d. 12) in in handral i formalisti Delta (d. 12) in in handral i formalisti Catalogi (d. 12) in handral allegand files (d. Satalogi (d. 12) in handral allegand files (d. Satalogi (d. 12) in handral allegand files (d.

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150 MICHAEL PAGE BROOM SHE added Im Penalty When DECEMBER OF THE PARTY OF THE PA

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Con Distance Co. 1 Schemen & Schemen 2.20 MICHAEL MARY LAND

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Titles of her makes 15-4 department of 1

Seven Towers looks built to last

RICHARD EDMONDSON

With great romantic timing Kim Bailey and Norman Williamson chose yesterday to kiss and make up following their estrangement of last year. The former dream team from Upper Lambourn will be reunited for the first time since their split, at Punchestown tomorrow, when Williamson will partner the horse on which he won the 1995

Gold Cup, Master Oats. If the sight of Master Oats emerging from Bailey's Old Manor Stables will be a shock he last ran over 12 months ago when runner-up to Imperial Call at Leopardstown - it will be even more arresting to see Williamson going in the other direction. Jockey and trainer ap-peared to have fallen out ir-

reparably at the season's outset.
"It will be great to be back on him as I missed his runs last sea-son when I was injured," Will-iamson said yesterday. The

CHEPSTYOW CHEPSTOW

1.15: Thinking Twice won this race a year ago yet is now 71b lower in the handicap. His latest run, over two miles on fast going, can be ignored. BRAVE TORNADO, another best in soft ground, is on the comeback trail after showing face potential two seasons ago. He shaped encouragingly on this track two weeks ago.

last time I rode him was in the Grand National after he won the Gold Cap. I've schooled Master Oats and he went very well. He felt great, jumped well and I couldn't have been more pleased with him."

Martin Pipe and Richard Dunwoody also almost reached a point where they were backto-back on a misty morning with pistols in hand, but expedience has dictated that they resume talks. Cadougold (1.15) in Chepstow's opener today should be another victory for their rapprochement.

Hooves will be thundering on some television sets for just about the whole afternoon because as well as three races from the Welsh track covered by the BBC, a further eight contests will be screened from Newcastle and Warwick by Channel 4.

Chepstow, neverthless, seems to provide the most attractive combat, even if the perfor-mance of Pipe's possible Gold Cup runner Cyborgo comes too late for the cameras. There

talent shown when winning at Chel-tenham last March. A watching brief, rather than a bet, seems wise.

2.15: Boardroom Shuffle has a tall reputation after a hat-trick. His lat-est success was on good to firm going, over 2mlf, at Cheltenham.
Today's trip is new to him and be
could be vulnerable to MIGHTY
MOSS, whose second to the highyear-old has performed this season as though he has for-gotten to remove a wheel clamp, thus reinforcing the theory that any winner of the debilitating Sun Alliance Chase might as well sign up for football-ground duty with the police

there and then

could be a ripple in the Blue wrong when supervising Garri-Riband market earlier when son Savannah to go on from Nahthen Lad (1.45) goes in the novice success to the big one, Fledgling Chase. The eight- and it must be said that Nahthen Lad is still held in the highest esteem at Weathercock House. He must justify that today. This reporter was leaning

on a bar last year when a shrew

contact of the Josh Gifford sta-

ble informed me that a fiveyear-old in the yard was among the most promising animals Findon had ever seen. With typ-However, his trainer, Jenny Findon had ever seen. With typ-Pitman, proved the adage ical sagacity, the only action



3.35: CHIEF MINISTER was smart over hurdles and the 10th be receives from Bold Boss may be decisive.

4.10: KILCOLGAN needs every yard of this trip, is well handi-capped, and likes this track. The

hurdling and, after just two outings, looks ahead of the handicapper.

Novices' Chase. The former classy hurdler Squire Silk gets WARWICK 2.50: LETS BE FRANK, who failed to get the trip when 15 lengths fifth to Supreme Lady over 2moff loyds at Utioneter last time, is preferred to Hoodwinker and Hooded Claw, who both disappointed last time.

your correspondent took was to

order another bag of pork

scratchings. Boardroom Shuffle

(2.15) is now unbeaten in three

starts this campaign and if he collects his Grade Two assign-

ment today he may even bypass

novice events at the Festival and

head for the Champion Hurdle.

At Warwick, yet another po-

tential Gold Cup aspirant lines up when Masmur (4.30) makes his seasonal debut. Tun For-

ster's grey has received sporadic backing over the winter, though it must be said this has not been

at the behest of his pessimistic

trainer, who is shocked when he

discovers that his horses have

formative trial for the Arkle Tro-

phy will be conducted in the

evious race, the Kingmaker

each morning.

3.20: SQUIRE SILK, most impressive when beating Endipe by a very easy 1/h lengths at Newbury last week, may outclass Mulligan, who

experience of Mulligan (3.20) holds sway.

but it may be that the fencing

There is also the touch of a match about the Eider Chase at Newcastle, which is billed as a trial for the Grand National, though its only resemblance to Liverpool is extreme distance and the fact that a leading Pre-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Seven Towers NB: King Pin (Warwick 3.55)

miership club is housed nearby. not committed mass suicide Those that are entered at Aintree are some way out of the King Pin (next best 3.55) has already been stapled with the handicap, though Gordon Richonerous label of being Peter Beaumont's new Jodami but is ards's Parsons Boy has the scope to rifle up the ratings. On progressing nicely, while an inthis occasion, he may succumb to a horse who is effective as long as he is allowed four miles to remove the damp from his spark plugs. Get on SEVEN TOWERS (nap 4.10).

> 3.55: KING PIN, who beat Paperis ing by three lengths over 2m4f at Ayr last time, looks a useful performer in the making. Potter's Gale may pose the most problems.

4.30: AROUND THE GALE, who beat Bayline Star by eight lengths in a novices' chase over 2,04f110 ds at bangor last time, figures on a reasonable handicap mark he is pre-ferred to Maanur, who may be better for the run.

HYPERION'S

NEWCASTLE

4.45: SEA VICTOR has taken well to 3.00: THE LAST FLING was going better than Vallant Warrior, winnerof this last year, when falling last time.

MMACAN FIRST (USA) (P Lampron) Mrs S Lampron 4 10 8. — 19 declared —

311 BORNY GRANEI (22) (D) Lohn J Thompson C Grant 8 11 10 ...
2120-10 SUPPLEM AND MORE (22) (C) E WASHINGT TIME 8 11 10 ...
301-215 WARK WHOOD FART) (New Carrol Alex L V Russell 5 11 10 ...
0-P ASHARIOVE DANCER (T) Rycon Limber) L Lungo 7 11 4 ...
223-30 BOLD ACTION (28) (Mes Syles Beleich) J Norton 9 11 4 ...
45-40 CHARLEY LAMMERY (27) (R) M Michael J Mache 8 11 4 ...
60-005 DON'T DELL TORK (7) (Ohn Wande J Wade 7 11 4 ...
9 WING FLY (28) (P A Homer-Hester) Mes 5 Homer-Henrer 7 11 4 ...
304PP LYFORD CAY (L1) (R Beadey J) Beadey 7 11 4 ...
1045 MANTA MAN (9) (I A Striphermon) P Cheesbookh 7 11 4 ...
105 No French Wash (12) (Solf Hoods Limited) 6 Richards 6 11 4 ...
13500-4F PAPPA CHARLEE (USA) (B) (Raymond Anderson Green) C Parker 6 11 4 ...
183-504 PRITHAMOS FLYRER (11) (Mes IN W Brid) J H Johnson 8 11 4 ...
1024 SHARED WERK (8) (Grahem Bindelburdé) J Norlon 5 11 4 ...

EFITME: 5-6 Marsho, 7-2 Durano, 9-2 Quanto, 8-1 Gospel Song, 14-1 Far Aband, 28-1 Wight's Lad, Toublin Talk, Burton Scener, 33-1 Jesselo, Januaron Hight, Chooling Dreams, 40-1 others 1988: Cross Line 5-11 4 R Gardy 5-2 08 W Esstethy 21 sm

2.25 LEVY BOARD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £2,474

63-504 PRINCAMES PURK (31) PAS M W (801) 31 JOSEPH S 11 4 LECTURE MARKED WERK (3) GENERAL BOOKER AND JOHN S 11 4 E Calleghan (3) 6-34 WELL ARMED (190) (Clayton Digley Partnership Ltd) J J O'Nelli 6 11 4 R McGaeth (6) 000-P WHITEBARDES WILLE (87) R W L Booker) J R Johnson 5 11 4 D Partner DO-PO Booker Made (24) Grovan Well Revind L Large 5 10 13 7 Reed 243P05 RACHMEL'S DAMM (2017) (Mac C A Word J L Eye 7 10 13 Micholay

— 19 declared —

BETIMIC 200-90 No Flore Man, 4-1 Bothly Grant, 5-1 Majin Man, 7-1 Subjected Moss, 8-1 Stared Rink, 19-1 Well Armed, 12-1 Proper Charlie, 14-1 Cheesey Lembert, Don't Tell Ton', 16-1 War Whoop, 20-1 Both Action, Papparezzo, Paulinais Flyer, 25-1 Rachnells Dann, 23-1 others 1998: Go-informat 5 11 10 M Dayer 11-8 () M Jefferson; 21 Inn

116-805 THEFIRET TRACES ARREAD (7) (7) (8) E Briggs) G Richards (11.11.12 A Doubbin 1511.25) VALUARET MARREADOR (1.4) (201) P Scharge McHarmond 8 11.12 R Gentley 116-11P EMBER JOHER (21) (CD) (G R Ordinary S Restricted 9 11.8 P Married 1111.75 THE LAST FRANCE (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Bloodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Richard General Access (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodstork) Min S Smith 7 11.3 Mill Grant Control (1.4) (D) (of lackson, Broodst

= B declared -BESTINGS: 3-2 Fiveleigh Neikin, 7-2 Eachy Joinet, 4-1 Valent Warrior, 9-2 The Last Fileg, 15-2 Bes-ter Times About, 12-1 in Trists, 14-1 Copes Capera, 20-1 All The Aces 1898: Vallent Warrior 8 11 8 R Gamity 11-1 (All Hagmond) 13 ran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

With his stable struggling is the first helf of the campeling. FEVELESCH SUBLDS sarely looked like adding to the fire seves he won lear reason, but flowsh pleas behind imposted Wintago under top weight at Luchov soggested the worst was over and he proved the point by bearing Wintagoding Sode Inflance shoot) at Jyr near time. Vallent Member see leat of the firstbase behind the Improving Knorekta King at Weberby a Corright ago – but he also ran a rare poor since in the series Weberby context lest year and bounced book to with the between Eastly Joher behind in the process. Vallent Weber shoot first body with the stable going through a quest speal. Eastly Joher must bounce back from a below-par run behind General Commend at Dominator, but he's equality with Piets with Piets who had given the improving when questioning class under 12 store in a course and distance handloop back in November. In Traité did better than Vallent Weberby but the Southful whether he would have been in The Last Fing if he'd stayed on his feet, Ottolooph, The Last Fing if we'd to avoid the orther risks had he no n'the Boor at Weberby.

3.35 GORDON ARMSTRONG WINES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £7,500 added 2m 110yds

04P/502 MOORAN (15) (Cross N Vehillars) A Vehillars 8 11.3

3.00 RADIO NEWCASTLE BREAKFAST SHOW HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £12,500 added 2m 4f

PEP-55P ALL THE ACES (50) (I) (I P McManus) J O'Neil 10 10 13.

must concede 7lb FORM CLIDE:

Chief Minister was order on at Wetherby but time on the attempt of a satisfactiny second to Spanly Sayle at Carliste, but he would have finished only third at Wetherby if Colones in Chief femmer at Ayr on Tuesday) teach make a mess of the fourth from home. Chief Minister can win this but it would be esser to facely han if the year was close before and it might as safer to said with 80.00 MOSS. Bold Boss made the most of an easy opening have 12 days ago but the pensity means he's new 10th worse off with Minoran for the two and a half lengths that separated them at Myr, a race in which Chosenfact take 10th before off with Bold Boss' was 15 lengths away fourth. If that ran is anything to go by, Mooran will turn out better over flences than the was over hundles but Bold Boss's greater experience counts for planny, Air Burnescout, is from the yeard that has wen necently with Loid Gyllans (tutce) and Sarch Wath. Owned by Newceste hoes Starn Clinic, Air Burnescout was in fair from over fundes before his latest outing at Doncsster and a wouldn't be a surprise to see him make his presence felt now here over fences.

Sealesting BOLD BOSS

have a year out make any hearty or not may be 3 today durings.	Sentimet, BOLD BUSS
4.10 TOTE EIDER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E added 4m 1f Penalty Value £22,053	£35,000 C4
1 11F-9F5 (QLIESTON (14) (CD) (H.) Manners) H Manners 11, 11, 11	S Curae
2 11F-511 SEVEN YOMERS (29) (C) (Am E A Munay) Mrs M Reveley 8	11.R
3 1113-11 PARSONS BOY (77) (C) (B Reign) G Retients 8 11 8	A Dobble
4. 3-P2604 CERLIDH BOY (21) (C) (Ms J 9 Goodinion) Mrs J Goodinion	
5 1/632-10 PROK CON (28) (C) (D) (Ms Margaret Francis) M Hammond 1	
8 APPF-4P FRONT LINE (50) 9 P McMarus) J O'Neil 10 10 7	Rickard Guest B
7 P1P03-3 MART Reso (1A) (W.S. N. Morgen) J Laugh 13 10 5	K Gmie
8 POU-43F SEE EMOUGH (LAP () A 6 Mounters R Buckler 9 10 5	S McNelf
9 04-2011 NY HOUSE (71) (MS LR Journal J O'Neil 8 101	_R McCath (5)
10 A4-3F42 MILCOLDAN (7) (J 9 Goodfollow) Mrs J Goodfollow 10 10 0	N Bentley B
11. 1 DROWS BROOK (16) (Racing Club NCB) K Baley 8 10 0	
12 32-451F PENNINE PRINE (32) (D) (Mrs W A Beautiont) M Harmond -12 declared -	
Allehoum weight; 10st, True weights: Alleolgen 9st 13to, Deute's Brook 9st	9th, Pennine Pride 9st 5th.

BETTHIR: PURIECASE: 11-4 Sevent Toward, 3 Persons Boy, 9-2 Draid's Brook, 6-1 by Homes, 10-1 See Escopy, 14-1 Plak Ga, 16-1 Microlyan, Killesbin, 20-1 Penalme Pride, Cellida Boy, 25-1 Front line, 3-3-1 Mark Hold 1986: Nilesbin 10 9 11, 5 Curan 9-1 (H Mormers) 15 ran

FORM 6thing also wen this 12 months ago but had been in good form beforetrand, wanning at Tairnton. Pulled up Intensible was this 12 months ago but had been in good form beforetrand, warping at Tatariton. Putled up in the Trainition specifies the time yound facinatedly on last ground and then a remote last of the Sinishers behind Piyer's Nop at Chepstow, Relestion is up against it. The four to concernment on see those that won lest time out. Parameters by har 20 longists to guest over SEVEN TOWERS at Carlest (Sim) back in November that work less been more forward on the day. Since then, Seven Towers has shown less a thorough stayer with put wins at Relso, the lottest of a four-miler, and he can get the better of Porsons Boy today. It's difficult in Indiana, is projected as an an exercise the seven and Paramons By host at Relso, the lottest of an exercise and an excellent easen and Paramons By host store but store the stage of the third of the seven paramonal to weigh up a Druget's Brook, it former eventer and winning pointer whose lest-stride win in a Touscoster nowed statute him as a broad that disays, McGragor The Tahrd is an example of what an eventer and excellent with the Sin, our of the hand Duid's Brook could make the difficult for Seven Towers and her can achieve when autorised to recing and Duplity Brook could make the canada or present of the second passons Boy éven if he is 5th out of the handloop, by Howee has taken time to get the handlof mings over fences but wind at Sodgefield and Market Reven suggest he can make his presence left with only han stone of the handloop.

4	.45	GOSFORTH HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £6,938	64
1	111442	TONE BROODE (14) (C) (As M W Bird) J H Johnson 7 11.12	A8 Switt
5	111630	TURNPOLE (12) (CD) (W.J Williams) Mrs M Reveloy 8 11.11	P Mires
3		MARCHANT MING (29) (Rotand Roper) M Hammond 5 11 11	R Gentity
4		MERIENEN (5) (W Hancack) J Fig. Berald 8 11 12	W Dway
5	120F-11	LIMIO (USA) (32) (CD) (The Low Plyers Ling P Monteth 9 11 6	A Dobble
6	3-34304	KAIDK (20) (C) (C) Mushy J Car 8 11 3	F Leatry (3)
7		SEA VICTOR (28) (J David Abell) J L Haros 5 11 2	_D Gallerher
8		CELESTRAL CHORN (I/4) (BF) (Mrs Carolle Sylves) J L Eyre 7 10 12	B Storey
9		DALLY BOY (23) (C) (T H Benness) 7 Emserby 5 10 12	College
10	12331-1	VIARBOT (182) (D) (Mrs L.S Moderon) H Alexander 8 10 5	R McGrath (5)
11	0145-05	OLD HARDES (28) (0) (R W Thomson) J L Eyre 8 10 4	T Eley
_		- 11, declared -	

BETTHIS: PUREEAST: 5-2 See Victor, 3-1 Livio, 6-1 Calestial Choir, 7-1 Tom Bredie, 8-1 Tempole, 10-1 Nimegen, 12-1 Dully Boy, 14-1 Marchant Wing, 16-1 Kaltaic, 20-1 Out Habits, 33-1 Viandot 1996: Tumpole 5-10 8 P Nime 3-1 Okis M Reseley 18 ran

FORM CUIDE Turnede best Sparly Gayle and 16 others in last year's use but he was a progressive huntler at the time Tumpole bast Sportly Gayla and 15 others in last year's soc but he was a progressive hunder at the time and LIMO and Sea Victor are the improving house this time pound, Listo troudd up here in Describer on his first run for Pear Monachin and then best Lochrague's with nonething in hund at Carlate. The has-back most be a possibility each in this trougher hunders, although See Victor is on a those-just himself and seems sure to have a say in the moster despite his relative inseperance over jumps. A busin-hunded ex-Plot horse, See Victor has taken well to hunding and will give those franciarpors planty to think stood fol-lowing novice wins is Luicester and Parapton. Toos Brooks and Calcullial Chair were no requir for Edebests. Ou Moulin at Witherby, where Celestic Flori went of fissouries. Even if they've suited by the longer trip they could still the Listo and Sea Victor buring the way.

I.45: An event that turns chiefly on whether NAHTHEN LAD retains the 3.35 Chief Minister 4.10 Kilcolgan 4.45 Sea Victor 2.25 Bobby Grant 3.00 The Last Fling GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places). Elefthand, oval course; , with rising run-in.; tough, galloping track. Course is on Al, fan N of town. Metro service to Four Lane Ends from Newcastle staten. But service from there. ADMISSHONE Chib £15 (OAPs & disabled £13); Tattersalls £8 (OAPs & disabled £13); Tattersalls £8 (OAPs & disabled £17); Silver Ring £4 (OAPs & disabled £2). CAR PARE: Free. T Reed — 18 winters, 38 Faces, 10.17s, +m.1.50. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Cellish Boy (visored) (4.10). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Nand. LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: See Enough (4.10) sent 348 miles by E Buckler from McDiesk, Dorset, Efficación (4.10) sent 289 miles by H Manness from Highworth, Wittelfire; Montal Express (1.25) & Drudt's Brook (4.10) sent 284 miles by K Balley from Upper Lambours, Berles,

1.25 NORTHERN RACING CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS F) £2,750 added 3m Penalty Value £2,267 B R Fahev 10 10 0___ -20 declared -um weight: 10st, True handices weights: What Jim Wents Sut 10th, Dendculate Sst 80, Shi Peth

g. JCD, JANUAROSEZ SAR ZAD. MY SIDEN SET 48b. ITENSE: 9-2 Affanettis, 5-1 Scentes, 6-1 Magis Lano, 8-1 Mouvel Express, 10-1 GAve Best, Flet Top, glastores, Hedeon Bay Trador, 22 Arian Spirit, 14-1 Hear Churgies, Areano Again, 16-1 Barktirbito, -1 What Jan Wants, Turkish Turwir, Dockmastar, 33-1 Dig Docker, 50-1 others 96: Carky Lad 8 11. 2 6 Harding 7-2 (6 Richards) 25 an

1			
	4 22	NEWSHAM NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,00	00 added 2m
	1.50	Penalty Value £2,484	
-	1 6F40	business CLAD AND AC II Steward 7 Footenhy fi 11 10	R Contity
	2	in number risk rest it selbara) / Firefraid 5 11 10:	D Carleghor
	2 10.	1. MARRELLO (87) (D) (Mrs M Villiams) Mrs M Reveloy 8 11.5	P Nine
1	ă 200	& BARTON SCAMP (25) (Mrs. H. J. Clarke) & Brookshow 5 11 4	T Ber
	5	O_ CHASSIC DEEANS (22) (D Exclusion) C Sept 9 11.4	Callegae
1	ă	CRANGE MOV (Remark F Rowner) N Everuit 7 11 4	O Peers
	7	FIRE AMEND (Surpak Potatoas) J L Byre 5 11.4	B Storey
	8 43	2. GOODEL SONG (371) Exper N Wolfanst A Whitans 5 11 4	A\$ Smith
1	9 09/03/2	4. CONTRACTOR OF THE CENTRAL CONTRACTOR OF THE C	Supple V
ı	10	JACES S. JAD (N.C. Durrington) P. Hastern 5 11.4	M Roctor
1	11 (YO - ONLY THE CITE CHANCE (14) (18 Hides) Lundo 5 11 4	(7) September
	12 180-4	A BORRETT YEAR HISSAYE (ISBN OMES M. Braden) J. M. JETIGTSON 5 11 4	E Codeghan (3)
1	130	O SHIRILEY'S TIME (25) (Paul Clifton) Mrs J Brown 8 11 4	
- 4		The state of the s	E History 170 M

HYPERION

M. Course is W of city on B4095. Brues from stations at Warwick (1m) and Learnington. Sps. (2m). ADMISSION: City 512 (16 to 24-year-olds 25); Tattersells 58; Course 25.

ness, 50 numers, 21.2%, +21.98; Miss H Enigist. - 9 winners, 47 numers, 19.1%, +214.50; G B Babling - 7 winners, 84 numers, 10.3%, -532.17.

LEADING JOCKETS: E Dunwoody - 34 winners, 78 rides, 43.6%, +536.82; A Heagaire - 18 winners, 85 rides, 12.2%, +537.89 J Oubscase - 18 winners, 77 rides, 19.5%, -523.68

A P McCop - 13 winners, 35 rides, 37.1%, +211.54 N Williamson - 12 winners, 63 rides, 19%, -54.80; E Johnson - 9 winners, 43 rides, 20.9%, -510.57.

RUNKERED FIRST TIME: None.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE FUNNIERS: Thoronton Gene (1.50) has been sent 159 miles by T Easterby from Great Habton, North Yorkshire.

1.50 MICHAEL PAGE GROUP HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m Penalty Value £4,150

PROPERTY AND THE PROPERTY WAS A COMMUNICATION OF THE PROPERTY AND ASSESSED TO STATE OF THE PROPERTY ASSESSED.

2.20 Michael Page Legal Novice Chase (Class B) £10,000 added 3m 2f Penalty Value £7,198

= 9 doctored -NAL-145 July Review, 11-4 Markett Milror, 7-2 Carole's Crusador, 12-1 Cape Casternes, 14-1

11121-5 PROGRAMICH (USA) (1011) (0) Siss Helen Mile) 8 Phillips 7 11 10.

65/2160 SAIRT CEL (USA) (21) (O) (Oan Racing F Jorden 9 10 0..... 62142-2 GOLDBIGO (B) (CD) (G M Pricet G Price 10 10 0.....

- 8 declared - Winnston weight: Coldings Set 12th.

Cel, 20-1 Kinds Cree, Deckle Yamself 1996; Goldings 9 10 5 J R Kwanself 7-1 (G M Price) 12ran

Month Rouse, 109-1 Top II All No. Beginning 8 11, 8 S. McMell 5-1 (R. Ainer) 3 can

L50 New Inn

2.20 Jet Rules

CAR PARK: Free. SES BACHE

250 Lets Be Frank

3.20 Squire Silk COING: Good

3.55 King Pin

4.30 Around The Gale

5.00 Lord Foley . . .

Michael Dror

2.50 MICHAEL PAGE SALES HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS) LEADING TRAINERS WITH EURNERS: M Pipe - 29 winners from 120 runners at a ratio of 24.3% giving a reason to a 51 level stake of -530.87; D Nicholson - 24 winners, 104 runners, 23.1%, +56.70; Mrs J Pitners, - 14 winners, 71 runners, 18.7%, +530.85; N Twiston-Davies - 12 winners, 74 runners, 16.2%, +53.52; N Headerson - 11 winners, 50 runners, 21.2%, +51.95; Mise H Enright - 9 winners, 47 runners, 19.1%, +514.50; N Headerson - 10 co. - 10 co.

1986: Alex Wirss 7 11 0 J R Keeningh 20-1 (N Henderson 20 cm)

PORM GUIDE

DOUNLAGO is not hereby handlespeed on his return to action. One of his wins in the 199495 stacon was at Hereford on his reappearance, so there is no doubting his ability to go well fresh. Lates the press is a progressive wort capable of improving on the effort at Utioxetter, where he may have found the trip too far. Beautmont is likely to appreciate stapping up in distance after running a creditable thand of 15 to Trouvalle over two miles here, on his reappearance. He won three races on the Fart, including at two miles, last year and he seems sure to play a leading role. Hooded Heads is in with a channel if secured a dismal effort at Accord last time. He showed fairly useful form an a novice last season and had shaped well where fourth to Balangk here on his reappearance.

Selection: DOUNLAGO

3.20 A) (Grade 2) £18,500 added 2m £11,540 01-1111 MERLIMAN (ZZ) (IN (Lody Hemis) O Nicholson 7 11 11 F432-72 MARY CHEFILE (LA) O'HINNAN & Bailding 6 13 1 1811-0 - France MERCHINGTON (FV) Lody Lyan P (Habber 7 11 5 ... 4155-01 SQUINE SHIK (B) (Flotest Ogden) A Turnell 8 11 5 ... = 4 declared RETTHER: 4-5 Squire Silk, 11-10 Mailigna, 14-1 Mair Cautio, 18-1 Flying bestractor
1968: Arctic Virgonov 8 11,5 C Librollyn 11-10 (M Fulgon-Daviet) 4 mm

1982 Archi Vinemen S 11.5 C Develop 13.10 (N Helpan-Devel 4 not PORRICE SILIA, receiving 7th from Wallington, is banded to preveil in a fescinating clash. Mul-Rigon is already a much better chains than he was a funder and, while he benefited from the early fell of Danoil to who a Grade Two Chase at Leopardstown lest time. On the other hand, in Squire Silic he is tacking a high-class huntler (fifth in the Champion Hundle less year) who has already demonstrated an epitude for fences. Andy Turnel's gelding, unlocky (hempered) to unease this rider at Exter's in Desgraber on his charge bow, showed he was unfeed by that mishap when scoring hard held from promising Europe at Newtonia less time. He seems destined for the top of the chaining tree, Buller Castle, a fairly useful hundler, had been no match for Europe at Strational and he situe chance against South Silk fifth eline through that winner is reliable. Flying lestmacher, a telety reachl fundler, has a mountain to climb on his chasing bow. 3.55 QUESTOR INTERNATIONAL NOVICE TRIAL HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 4f 110yds £7,100

11-4311 ABMS PER (21) (0) UR Havilding P Beautront 5.11 12.
11 IBMS OF CAMELOT 11-6 (Losy Weigel 9 Michigan 7 11 8...
F22/10 ROCHILLIFFE LAD (26) Strom Kendick N Tribest-Dates 8 11 8...
13-2112 POTTER'S GALE (21) 0 E Prome 9 Michigan 6 1.7

FORM GUIDE.

FORM GUIDE.

FORM Showed the benefit of a two ppe-openers when scoring by a length and a half from Lagen Biddge in a novice hundle at Catarrick in December. King Pin has won since at Ayr, beating another subsequent waver, Peperising, in good style. King Of Camelot a unbenter ofter a bumper at Dongoster and a weak novice hundle at Stration. He won with any amount in hand at Strational and is open to plenty of improvement but his 3th delinear refer will be unable to draw his attenuence in this valuable race and more denger may come how stableness Potter's Gale. Successful at Towcester and Lelector on her infulf two caces, over hundles, she was second Boardroom Shuffle in a novice's hundles of the startam (2m 1f) when attempting a hat-rick. Boardroom Shuffle was conceding her lumps of weight but is registed Champion Hundle material by his balance and the mare was far from diagraced in running him to a length and a half. She is likely to appreciate stapping up in distance here. Receditific Last can be exceed being well besten at Newton Abbot lest time, as he floundered in the heavy ground.

4.30 MICHAEL PAGE FINANCE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £9,500 added 2m 4f 110yds £6,398 1998: Old Bridge 8 9 8 8 Crone 5-1 (A Turnell) 7 ran

PORM GUIDE.

Newworthes not raced since giving an impressive win from Unguided Missile in the Ritz Club Chiese at Chellenham last Merch. He will surely find this tip on good ground an insufficient rest of stamina and is passed over in issurely find this tip on good ground an insufficient rest of stamina and is passed over in issurely find this tip on good ground an insufficient six year-old jumps the en old hand and looks kindly treated for his first and latest outing this term, he rain his best race over tenses when beaten only a next by Pleasure Shared In a Grade 7 wo nowices chases at Workester between those successes. Mony-Sign, who was eight languages swey that on level arms at Workester, transed that form when accord to Sevon Towers in two handicep chases at Kelso.

Selections AROUND THE GALE

EM	יה	MICHAEL PAGE TECHNOLOGY STANDARD NH FLAT RACE
220	Ц	(CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m Penalty Value £1,028
1 21	D 1	LORD FOLE! (12) (CD) (EF) (Folly Steelstock) J O'Shee 5 11 10 Michael Steeman (3)
2 1	0 1	BOLD LEAP (24) (Two Generations Pertnership) P Webber 8 11 3 Mr A Sensone
3	•	CONTRACT COLUMN (I KS Cressorii) J Cosses 6 11.3
ı		CRETIC CHARGE (R 7 Price) R Price 5 11, 3
5	1	OMIGER WALT (Hugh 8 McCarbon) R Price 5 11 3
3	_ 1	HARESTEANSHER (Roger Allocat Mess P White 6 11 3
,	9	HELPICK (16) (ten Berst Miss II Knight 9 11.3
3 • 4	9	HOMEST GEORGE (105) (Aubrey Ellis K Brogness 8 11.3
	D J	IENAMO (10) (Terrory Beasley) W Junis 6 11 3 Nr A Mitchell
LD .	ı	LIGHT THE PUBE (A F (coracia) K Bailey 5 11 3C Scudder (7)
1		NEVER DARM (Liplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 5 11.3
12		STANUEL WILDERSPEN (County Graphic Colour United) 9 Nicholson 5 11 3R Massely (2)
	B :	SELENT CRACKER (16) (R C G Smith) R Dickin 5 11.3 X Airport (7)
14		PRESENT PERSON (Manchey Club Pertonastrin) A Coroni 8 11.3
15	1	WAR PARTE (Autobur Engineering) Mrs. J. Promen 5 11.3
LB .	. 1	MENPONS FIRE (8 7 Severi-Bown) T Tale 6 11.3R McCarthy (7)
	9 (1000 TIME DUNCER (34) (Good Time Bood) P Webber 5 10 12D Thomas (7)
8		WENNING LASS (P Wegnerry) P Wegnerry 5 10 12
9 (9 1	DAMNUTS HILL, (R2) (Mrs Christine Wilhord P Wildher 5 1D 12Mr P Seett
	•	MSS FOLEY (Folley Speciatock) J Pescock 4 10 2 Settleon (7)
<u>u</u> .	•	PATPHILASSETHORNEYS (Julian Gases Link C Systh 4 1.0 2
2 .		PROPER PREMITIVE (C.) Desire C Diene 4 10 2C Ree (7)
		- 22 deciment -

CREPSTOW HYPERION 3.15 Wise King L15 Brave Tornado 1.45 Nahthen Lad 2.15 Mighty Moss 2.45 A N C EXPRESS (nap) 3.50 Cyborgo 4.25 Menesonio

GOLDEN STAND.

Eleft-hand, undulating course with rup-in of 240yds.

Rececutive is on A466. Chepatow rad station (Cardiff – Gloncester line) I.m. AD-MISSION; Club 514; Tamersails 519 (OAPs 55). CAR PARK: Free.

ELEADING TRAINESS WITH EUNNERS: M Fige — 50 winners from 191 runners gives a soccess ratio of 26.2% and a loss to a 5.1 level stake of \$13.31; N Twiston-Davies — 21 winners, 102 runners, 20.6%, +\$8.67; P Hobbs — 19 winners, 75 runners, 25.3%, +\$42.64; D Nicholson — 15 winners, 51 runners, 20.4%, +\$2.40.

ELEADING JOCASTS: E Damyoody — 29 winners, 131 ride; 25.7%, 522.41; A P McCoy — 21 winners, 74 rides, 29.4%, +\$0.48; D Beidgwatter — 20 winners, 76 rides, 26.3%, +\$30.48; C Liewellyn — 15 winners, 87 rides, 17.2%, -\$22.4% ELINEERED FERS TRIMS: Colored (1.45); Sheet Ability (2.45); Southernbary Boy (3.15); Dom Samoural (visored, 2.46). Winners St THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Lagen Bridge (2.15) was 4 Ayr on Samday; Cyborge (3.50) was a Newbory on Samday; Colored DESTANCE EUNNERS: Home Counties (1.15) & Lagen Bridge (2.16) bare been sent 211 miles by D Moffatt from Cartinel, Cambria.

[3	L.15	M & N GROUP HURDLE (CLASS B) (LIMITED BBC1 HANDICAP) £10,000 added 2m 4f 110yds
1	41-3F45	HOME COUNTRES (20) (D) (Roy Cremes (Dahon) Ltd) 9 Moltan 8 11.11 D.3 Moltan
2	736F3.1	ANCIENT COST (The Cell Complete Devicemble) () NECHONON (; 11 11)
3	85112D	STOOM DANIES (7) (Store Deman Personne) Phichols 5 119 Bridgeman
4	224 6 0.0	MODORCH (KD) Urban, Etmatecki N Talatin-Dakel / 11.8
5	050-201	NAMES TRUE (FIG. 214) (C) (A P Patent R Diden 7 11, 7
6	005-300	THE MICHE THREE RISA! (21) 6204 Feb McGRED! N HERDESON 8 11 8
ž	253.341	CADOMACALD (FR) (70) (CD) (D & Johnson) M Pipe 9 11.3
ġ	20.0580	DR LEINT (7) (Peter Emery 2 Hobbs 5 11 0
ğ	11860.5	BRIVE TORNADO (14) (IASE & SNUE) G BRIDEY & 3U 12
蚎	D02110-	LYBIG EYES (313) (D) (Remail Heiddich) W G M Turker 6 1D 1D
11	0111.50	ABBEY STREET (21) (BT Stevent-Brown) O Shemboot 5 10 9
73	101535	SPARIGUAGO COME (22) DAta M Horson D Shannood 8 10 5C Manufe
_		- 12 declared -

HETTERS; 3-1 Cadougols, 5-1 Arguer, 7-1 Redestref, 5-1 Brave Formatio, 9-1 Dr Lewet, 10-1 Store Deseage, Thinking Twice, 12-1 Horse Counties, 14-1 Abbry Street, Mondais, 20-1 others 1998: Thinking Twoc 7 10 7 M A Fitzgerald 9-1 (N Hendeston) 10 ran POTRIA GLIDBE

The 1995 7 sumph Hursle provides one of the keys to this race, having featured BRAVE TORNADO, (such), Dr Lewart (desquaded after freehing second), and Ansam (a running on that) The form is old, but could still be relevant. Brave Tomado was trampered at the first flight and outdinesser get to the leaders in time, despite staying on web. He has been girtly raced since, but not and a half infles in the soft looks just the beket and and he can clearly be given every choice of bearing Ansam on these terms, while he gave Cadeugold 4b and a beating on route to the Festival lover 2m 2f in the hasy at Embry and gate 55 from Martin Pipe's French-based this time. Being on the small side, Brave Tomado will appreciate carrying 10st 12b and he shaped sacisfactify when fifth to Kadestrof here (2m 110yds) two weeks ago. Dr Lewart trangeased the rules in the Triumph, but it was plain to all luck to be pushed through the rais on the approach to the thard test and he did entereshably well to fight back for second place. Gehen the amount of munking he did that day, it is probable that he will appreciate two males and a half. Kadestrof is ultra game and hus Xinker Azpuru's claim to assest.

Selection: BRAVE TORNADO

		-				
E	L45	FLEDGLING 2m 3f 110y	CHASE (CL	ASS B) £10,0	00 added	BBC1
l١				Perran 8 11 11		R Person
Ιō				tobbs 8 11 3		G Tormey
Ιā	060226	MONIECUT (FT)	(22) (BP) (Sr Mid	neel Cormell) S Mallo	r8 11 3	
3 4	123221	AIR SHOT (200)	Mrs. Peter Prouter	6 0 Nichalson 7 11	0	R Johnson
5	4-12351	COOUREE (10) (B	TR Westoni P Ni	chois 9 11.9		D Bridgenter S
86	TTNG: 7-4	Bells Life, 9-4 No	hthen Led, 3-1	Air Shot, 7-1 Mont	ecot, 12-1 Co	pirme

1996: Kings Cherry 8 11 48 Powell 10-1 (R Buckler; 3 am

1996: Kings Cherry 8 11 4 8 Powel 10-1 IR Buckler 3 am POWNA GAIDDE.

Air Shot gats the cut in the ground when suits him so wail and he is ergaphly the form pick to best Bells. Life in receipt of 3th, But Air Shot, second to Challenger Du Luc in last season's Catheset, blundered his chance away in a two-mile nouse chase here 1.5 months ago and his jumping was suspect afterweads, shrough he is usually game and clover enough to leap his feet. His Festival second was a cracking effort on ground that was a bit faster than he cares for and he is sure to be a tough mut to erack today with conditions so make more to his liding. But the selection is the four-time course warner BELLS LIFE who was given a fine ade by Glerm Tomey here two weeks ago. Everything needs to go ngitt agoin with Bells Life floring a potentially tougher examination, but his liding for course, distance and ground should ensure that he mokes a bold bid even it he would be something like 9th better in with the Sun Aliance Chase winner, Nahitben Lad, in a handicap, Jerny Ptymer's eight-year-old, who holds a Gold Cup entry, is hard to assess on this season's evidence the was found to be some efter a below-per run at Haydock last morath but he has the form in the book and he mastered Mir Mulligan by eight lengths at the Festival. Monthesot had fairly useful chasing form in France before joining Stan Meller and the latest of his three hundles runs can be overlooked because he was feeling the effects of three runs in ten days. Coeliner has a stiff task at the weights.

2.15 COLIN DAVIES PERSIAN WAR PREMIER NOV-ICE HURDLE (CLASS A) £15,000 added BBC1 2m 4f 110vds

BETTING: 6-4 Boardroom Shaffle, 4-1 Harboar Island, Mighty Moss, 15-2 Marching Morquis, 10-1 Fidding The Facts, Soider, 25-1 Lugen Bridge, 20-1 Periah Fashion, 1996; Jet Rujes 8 11.9 W Marchine 8-1 Mrs J Pariah 3.5 the Form

HARBOUR ISLAND's lock of jumping experience will be tested here by some exciting novoes headed by Boardroom Shuffle. Martin Pips will have given Harbour Island the fullest possible preparation after this the-year-old inscended Richard Durwoody at the first hunde at Warnikol last time, especially se he made a master or two rowants the end of his Haydook race previously. But this former Michael Stoute-trained Flat-racer is in his element given a distance test in soft going and he could probably have won by 30 lengths instead of 18 when obligate over this trip at Haydook. With Harbour learnd potentially smart over of 18 when obligate over this trip at Haydook. of 18 when obliging over this trip at Haydock. With Harbour Island potentially smart over timber and the ground Beely to be stocky and tring. It could just be worth opposing Josh Gifford's Righty promising suryear-old who served 12st to a handicap victory against nowers at Cheltenham lest time. Billighty Moss: has already won over course and distance in holding ground and this test will be more suitable than the one he faced in a small field on good ground at Donaster last time. He sensiter jockey cannot clear today, however, because the race is too valuable. Fiddling The Facts impressed when she won at Folkestone leat time. She could turn out a bit special but does, of course, face a far suffer test here. Marething Marquist is improving but beet title at Warvick lest time and it was dightly disappointing that he could not cope with The Proms at Linglield previously, Lagian Bridge meits the crack against better class, but it would surprise to see him win, while Solder needs to put behind him a disappointing effort behind Kerawi at Newbury but its a sold ground winner in France,

2-45 ASHFIELDS FARM HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 2f 110yds Minimum weight: 10st, True handicap weight: Special Account 9st 12fb. Holy Sting 9st 11fb, Space Cap-

ndal wege: 166, the natural wege: Special Access as 120, Auty Song 99, 110, Spa x Sb, Sponograf 9d. ING: 3-1 A N C Equresc, Cleventime, 7-1 Spotfington, 15-2 Delyne Noy, 10-1 Piectic Spa Donald Accessed, Top Brass, 25-1 Section 25-1 Space Cappe, 60-1 Shamerphil b: Coss Cf Ninety Two 7 19 10 R Durancoty 11-4 (T Forster) 19 pan

1	_		week ton the money and the test of the	
	3		EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds	
1	1	503-516	TOMPETOD (82) (CD) (SF) (Tom Petaler Ltd) N Treston-Daves 6 11 1	OC Demotion
	2		BELMOREBRIMO (Mrs Audry J Hartrett) M Pipe 7 11 9	C Mande
	3	OF	DUNES CASRE (93) (Alex A Sim) R First 6 11.0	I Breet
i	ă		HIGHTECH TOUCH (Mrs. J Saler, Berns) L. Grandch, 7 11 0	Mr I Cressiele
ì	5	1410-05	JOHN DIGINM (58) (Andrew Jankinst P Webber 8 11 0	- Cohema
ı	8		LITTLE JAKE (93) (BF) (Alichael And Gerry Wordester) N Chance 7 11	D Indonesia
ı	7	-	LIZZYS FIRST (Die Valley Racing) 8 R Milleren 5 11 0	
ı	ġ	1.75	PRINCESTIE (17) (Robert & Elestrath Hacture) Mrs J Planan B 110_	day
4	Ř	103.40	RHYTHM AND BLUES (102) DAS Peter Gregory R Bucker 7 11.0.	
1		10100	CONTRACTOR OF SEA OF COMPANY AND	POWNE
1	10	7000	SOUTHERSWAY BOY (15) (D C Count) Mes S Williams 6 11 0	Firefun B
ı	끒	43.53	WISE KING (16) (Dens Mine) J Okt 7 11 0	
1	11	2-	CLOSE HARMONY (343) (Queen Elepheth) N Hendesson 5 10 9	R Dumoody
ı	-		- 12 declared -	_
ı	æ	TRUE 5-2	Wise King, 7-2 Close Harmony, 9-2 Princelyl, 5-1 Tompeton, 8-1	Bekmarehrune, 9-
ı	2.4	ije Drumi	s, 12-1 Little John, 16-1 Rhythm And Blues, 20-1 others	
ı	199	6: Ambles	de 5 11 0 R Duraccocy 10-3 (Mrs 5 Williams) 11 ran	

3.50 CLIVE GRAHAM NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,100 added

			FLYOVER HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £1 to stakes 3m	
i	1	1HTF-0	HEBREDEAN (77) (D) (P A Deal) P Viebber 10 12 9	10-
	12	emija.	MANUFALI OR ON OUR 12 Housen Spender 0 11 1	
1		772×31	JEJAN BOST ROX1 (2001 DES ET & COMPANSA) M'ALASSA RALLA CAN	F 4
1				
1	8	63-423	MENESONIC (14) (Ms W H Water) R Airer 7 10 5	
1	B	20012	THE MEDICANS GONE (285) (M R Clarks) D Gangley 6 10 0	K JOHNS
1	ă	21.1284	CLEMANNIF CERL (64) (5) (David L'Estraga) M Pipe ? 100	
1	10	12300	PENNYMOOR PRINCE (14) (N W Lake) R Front 8 10 0	E Tomey
	111	1.16510	SCORBY (BEL) (14) (Mrs. E 6 Gardner) R Buckler 7 10 9	Pro
	12 4	24000	executives 444 (10 persy (person 644)	B Popu
			SPINIT LEVEL (63) (J R Payne) J Payne 8 10 0.	Mr S Durack (1
ı	16	مادره دی	- 14 1902 200 - '	
1	AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON		hi: 10st, True handicap weight: Glenganti Girl Set 12th, Pereyencer P	tince Set Sth. See

by Set 79. Spiritary 7g Str.

BETTING: 9-4 Norbell, T-2 Menancials, 11-2 My Receiul, 7-1 The Medicinis Give, 8-1 Yearn Bair 19-1 Bankhaul, Scotty, 11-1 Glengarif Girl, 12-1 Veryvel, 14-1 Hebrideen, 20-1 others 1998: Platsurb Stored 8 11 5 R Durmoody 7-1 (P Hoths) 18 ran

the Court walk past this Will be the event took it awas and as I went 1 ling believed use, and gun r an old non tilling he har pour black range ! tof here You'n ak man and thank tool come because sometonic else is marben New day 1 tere mounds of corpses.

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FROME OH - VOUSE BOD deaths. I went up to the Hart Berrie wat allow day, and I said What's ment. The said there Mand Load No. page has are freter even one on this is whose passe M. Lister on trend or primarile material and ild but I pushed my na ad been named and the

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Croft spins in to spare Atherton

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Christchurch New Zealand 229-5 v England

Robert Croft is a spin bowler who defics logic, or at least the kind found in most county changing-rooms around England. He also takes wickets. which is a useful hahit, especially when your captain has inserted a side on a grassy pitch in the firm belief that his pace bowlers will have put him in an unassailable position by tea.

With his chirp, spin and aggression, the 26-year-old Croft has been England's find of the winter, an assessment support-ed by the assistant howling coach. John Emburey, who now reckons the Glamorgan player on tour is a far better version of the one he knew in England. "He adjusts to the pace of the wicket so quickly." Emhurey said. "He's a damn good bowler

who's improving all the time." Quite simply, where others failed to make a mark. Croft as he did when England most needed it in the second Test in Wellington - stamped his now indelible authority by taking the prime wickets of Pocock, Astle and Fleming. as England clawed their way hack into the game after a disconcerting morning session had threatened to expose Mike Atherton's contentious decision to field.

Asking the opposition to hat hrst in Tests matches is always a risky proposal. So far Atherton has done it on five occasions, winning once, drawing three times and losing the other. It is a poor win-rate considering the high-risk element involved: namely that if your opponents get a hig score, you are inevitably going to have to bat last on a pitch that is both worn and unpredictable.

If it was logic then it flew in the face of local advice, which, like that in Johanneshurg last

winter (where Atherton's decision to insert was absolved only by one of the great Test innings). regards what is above your head as more important than what is below your feet. As that was blue sky, the consensus outside the England dressing-room was to bat, despite the verdancy of the playing surface. What undoubtedly compli-

cated Atherton's decision, however, was New Zealand's late inclusion of Heath Davis, a seam bowler brought in to replace a veteran spinner, Dipak Patel. With the Kiwis needing to win, Atherton may have bowled simply in order to prevent the home side's pace-oriented attack from having first use of a juicy looking track. When Boh Willis tried this ploy in Adelaide dur-ing the 1982-83 Ashes series it

THIRD TEST FIRST DAY

badly backfired when Australia won comfortably by an innings. Atherton would probably argue that howling first has proved to be the right thing in every match so far played on this leg of the tour and that New Zealand pitches, which tend to start damp, are at their best for

hatting on days two and three. It is a theory that is borne out historically and on the 35 occasions a team have been asked to bat first in Tests on New Zealand soil, losses outnumber wins 18 to seven.

Had the England captain not become so infected with the insistence of his coach, David Lloyd, on dealing solely with positives, he might also have pointed out that England again wasted the new ball, with Dominic Cork in particular looking as if he was searching for wickets through style rather

than content.

The official line is that he is struggling for rhythm, which may be true. But even though he managed to pick up Bryan Young, bowled through the

LANCASTER PARK SCOREBOARD

(First day; England won toss)
NEW ZEALAND - First havings B A Young b Cork......(9 min, 11 balls, 2 fours) 196 min. 65 balls, 1 four) M J Home c Thorpe b Gougt 1154 mm, 124 bats. 4 fours. *S P Fleming st Stewart b Croft (219 min. 167 balls, 6 fours) N J Astle e Hussaut b Croft ... (36 min, 23 bells, 1 four)

Golding holds sway

To bet: S B Doull, H T Davis, G I Allott, O L. Vettori, Bowling Cork 15-3-67-1 (no.12) (6-1-33-1, 6-2-20-0, 3-0-14-0): Cork 15-3-67-1

Bonding Cork 15-3-67-1 (nb12) (8-1-33-1 6-2-20-0, 3-14-0); Caddick 18-4-33-0 (nb1) (5-2-5-0, 5-2-8-0, 3-0-8-0, 2-0-5-0, 3-0-7-0); Gough 16-3-44-1 (nb3) (3-0-13-0, 10-3-19-1, 3-0-12-0); Croft: 24-4-49-8 (6-1-12-1, 8-1-18-1, 3-1-9-0, 7-1-10-1); Turnell 16-8-22-0 (10-4-14-0, 6-2-8-0); Thomps 1-3-0-0. Progress: 50: 56 mm, 12-2 overs, Lunche 85 ftr 2 (forme 31, Ferning 2) 28 overs, 100: 147 mm, 34-2 overs, 150: 226 mm, 53.1 overs, Tou 160 for 4 (Fleming 38, Perore 9) 57 overs, Tou 160 for 4 (Fleming 38, Perore 9) 57 overs, Tou 160 for 4 (Fleming 38, Perore 9) 57 overs, Tou 160 for 4 (Fleming 18, Flores, Floresing 50: 163 mm, 127 bals, 6 flours, ENGLAND: N V Knight, *M A Atherton, †A J Stewart, N Hussam, Q P Thomps, J P Craw-ley, In Cork, R 18 Cort, D Gough, A R Cad-

gate to one of the horrible shots of the series, his mind seems to be on another cloud to the long, white one over here. Young's dismissal did give England an early chance to pressurise the debutant Matthew Horne, who, after getting off the mark with an edged four over second slip, looked as if he had both the technique and lemperament to prosper at this level. Unfortunately

Horne's chance to consolidate his place will prohably have to come later rather than sooner, as he suffered a fractured left wrist during his otherwise competent innings of 42. It was an injury caused by Darren Gough, the man who eventually got him out, caught by Graham Thorpe as he edged a lifter to first slip.

It was one of several injury problems endured by New Zealand, who began the day without their captain, Lee Germon, after he had failed a fitness test on an injured groin. As the team's wicket-keeper

as well as their leader, it took two men to replace him, with Stephen Fleming taking over as acting captain and a reprieved Adam Parore taking the gloves. It was a combination that deceived to flatter, and, according to many, Germon is only in the side for his PR and not his

Fleming's promotion at the tender age of 23 over that of Blair Pocock - the only man in the side to have had first-class experience of captaincy - was a bold move. It was not so long ago that Fleming was carpeted, along with two of his teammates, for smoking cannabis during a tour to South Africa.

They say, however, that power can change a man, and after the reckless manner in which he gave up his wicket in Wellington, the tall left-hander was a model of concentration and calm.

When he is set, he can look as classy as any left-hander bar Brian Lara, and he twice left extra cover gawping in admiration as sumptuous drives off Phil Tufnell and Gough flashed by. There are still flaws and just when it looked as if he had played his captain's role almost to perfection, a rash attempt to dominate Croft saw him efficiently stumped by Alec Stewart for 62.

It was a close decision which the umpire Daryll Hair gave out without recourse to the third umpire, an arrogant act since the technology is there to be used. Hair has done this before and, a few years ago, this unshakeable belief in his own judgement once cost England a couple of crucial run-outs in Sydney.



High flier: New Zealand's Chris Cairns evades a lifting ball by the England paceman Andy Caddick on the opening day of the third Test Photograph: Chris Turvey/Empics

Harris returns to Warrington

Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER

Mike Golding was set to take Group 4 first across the finish line for the third time in three legs of the BT Challenge last night. With just 24 hours and 25tt miles to run of the 1.250 from Wellington to Sydney he had a 10-mile advantage on Chris Tibbs in Concert.

But Tibbs was slightly better positioned to the north of Golding and determined to make up for the disappointment of being dismusted on the second legfrom Rio de Janeiro. Making ground was Simon Walker, third three place in all three legs as a 50ft yacht. Aqua Quorum.

well as staying second to Gold-ing on combined elapsed times. Nearing the finish of a comlete circumnavigation is the Frenchman Christophe Augin in the 60ft Geodis. He is forecast to win the Vendée Globe singlehanded non-stop round the world race at Les Sahles d'Olonne tomorrow in a new record time of 105 days, four

by Titouan Lamazou. Lying sixth, but due to climb higher when given time allowances for his rescue of Raphael Dinelli, is Britain's Pete Goss, safely round the Horn, recovered from performing surgery on his own el-

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Warrington's Great Britain stand-off. Iestyn Harris, is back in training with the cluh and is in line for a recall in the Challenge Cup tie against Sheffield Eagles next weekend.
Harris, the current first less than the previous best set

choice for the Test side, has been frozen out at Wilderspool since being transfer-listed at a world record £1.3m last

He has been training on his own while Warrington and prospective huyers, St Helens, in Toshiba and heading for a top bow, and the only competitor in have drifted further and further apart in their negotiations.

But now Warrington have told him to come back to Wilderspool to train with their squad and Harris has accepted

the approach. A statement from the club said: "Iestyn Harris has been instructed to report back to the club for training. This is following the failure of St Helens to put forward anything like an acceptable proposal for his

"St Helens approached the player and unsettled him at a crucial time for the club and the loss of his goal-kicking may well have cost the club fourth place in Super League.

to St Helens - contact between

them is prohibited - hut he is still on the transfer list." A spokesman for Harris said

continue to play for Warrington hut still wanted a move. Saints have confirmed that they will appeal against Bohhie Goulding's eight-match ban for his high tackle on Wigan's Neil Cowie in the Challenge Cup tie

last Saturday. It is five years since Bohhie was last sent off and we feel the severity of the sentence outweighs the severity of the offence," David Howes, the club's

chief executive, said. ace in Super League.

Saints and Wigan have each lenge Cup last weekend play in the first round of the new Silk vised brawl in the wake of Cut Plate competition tomorrow.

has been suspended for a year in each case but the clubs, who he had always been willing to have heen told they have no right of appeal, are to seek legal

> Carlisle and the amateurs, Dudley Hill, who were also involved in a hrawl in their tie last weekend, have each been fined £1,000, of which £750 is uspended.

> Halifax have signed another young French player, the 18-Guisset, from St Estève.

First and Second Division cluhs knocked out of the ChalFIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

Welsh pride against plant plant from Paris the rorent was barely a month old when his father Claude players not water areas age, Scott Gibbs, in Paris this firerroom was betted anyone wheels a welsh hard age. Scott Gibbs, in Paris this firerroom was betted anyone wheels a strictory at Pare des Princes.

DAVID LLEWELLYN reports from Paris

When a French rock, Richard Dourthe, meets a Welsh hard case, Scott Gibbs, in Paris this afternoon woe betide anyone caught in the middle. The pair of them will be at the epicentre of the confrontation between France and Wales at the Parc

Wales, with a miserable run of 10 Five Nations defeats on the trot stretching back 22 years in the French capital, and here on the rebound after perpetuating another dismal run with a home defeat against Ireland two weeks ago, do not intend rolling over and letting the Tricolores get away with anything. For their part France will be

lonking to complete the second leg of what the nation hopes will he a Grand Slam and wrap up fixtures between the two countries at the Parc before moving to a purpose-built stadium elsewhere in the capital next year. But there's many a slip twixt

Five Nations cup and lip. Having lost half a dozen first-choice players through injury or suspension the last thing the French want is for Dourthe, the erstwhile bad boy - he has been variously accused of kicking England's Ben Clarke, punching Wales' Ieuan Evans and spitting at Neil Jenkins as well as breaking the ribs of his closest friend, Thomas Castaignède, courtesy of a late tackle - to misbehave today. Remarkably, the heaviest penalty Dourthe has had imposed on him was a one-match han for the Clarke incident.

Dourthe, 22, who plays at full-hack for Dax, missed the French victory over Ireland last month after suffering concussion following a training ground collision, and he was one of the six enforced changes to the side, coming in at centre for Castaignede, who is recovering rom a hroken jaw.

Today, promises Dourthe, he will be a good boy. "I have gone over the top several times," he admitted. "I am too impulsive. A modern player should not lose control as I have done, but I believe I have turned that corner and you will now see a different Richard Dourthe."

Not too different though. France will need his aggressive edge and fiery spirit. Wales are dangerous. Allan Bateman, like Gibbs, a prodigal from rugby league, poses a very real midfield threat and Dourthe is rekindled passion could lift aware of this. He says: "The Wales to greater heights.

1975 on the occasion of Wales' last victory at Parc des Princes. must have some subliminal memory of that Gallie slip-up because he insists: "Deep down I fear the Welsh far more than I fear the English.

"In their opening match the English stuck rigidly to their game plan and in my opinion did not display much of a threat. Whereas even in defeat against Ireland two weeks ago the Welsh showed a spirit that we have not seen from them in a

long time."

If Wales are to storm the French line successfully they will need an exemplary performance from their pack. Against cardinal sin of losing the ball in the tackle and turning over possession to their opponents too frequently which meant they could not provide a sound platform for their backs to work

That performance prompted a veteran of the 1975 triumph. Charlie Faulkner, to say: "Some of the forwards are very lucky to be given another chance. You feel like putting a few back in Mothercare's window. If the attitude and application isn't totally different from that shown against Ireland then they will get a hiding. Nice guys win nothing, especially at Parc des Princes. Talking of nice guys, Dourthe

kicked 20 points when France beat Wales 40-33 in Cardiff last September. Despite that Dourthe continues to talk up the Welsh, "Apart from the ultra-hard Gibbs-Bateman pairing at centre," he explains.
"they also have Ieuan Evans. who remains a redoubtable finisher, Arwel Thomas, who has established himself at fly-half. not to mention a formidable hack row. This Welsh side is singing a very different song from the one we faced last September. If Wales win in Paris, they will win the Five Nations' Championship."

That "if" reverberates around the concrete bowl of the Pare des Princes. Wales who were relieved to see their full-back and goal-kicker Jenkins, and Bateman come through a rigorous work-out yesterday, will have an awful lot to do. Paris is braced for an epic en-

counter. History and form favour France, but pride and

Richmone

Fichmon

. Swansea

FRANCE v WALES

at Parc des Princes, Paris

Colomiers 15 N Jenkins.

Bourgoin 14 | Evans ...

Bourgoin 12 S Gibbs ...

... Dax 13 A Bateman.

Brive 11 G Thomas

Brive 10 A Thomas

Toulouse 1 C Loader...

Montferrand 5 M Rowley

Toulouse:

18 S Viers (Brire), 17 D

Brive 9 R Howley

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the man to the fact that the f Paul Class Batter

Gerg for the combined title.

December in Vail, they held a World Cup super-giant slalom

Old Boys turn the corner partially saved to put them back in the lead. When, three

Hockey

PETER COLWILL

BILL COLWILL reports from Cologne

Old Loughtonians, who have had bad luck recently with injuries as well as losing their Na-tional Indoor title, had a change of fortunes here yesterday when they won their opening game of the European Indoor Cluh Championship A Division.

They beat the Spanish champions, Aldeasa Valdeluz, 5-3 in an exciting game before a near full house. In a match in which they never looked back after opening the scoring in the sixth to sweep in after Hector's minute, their Scottish pair, penalty corner had been

Bobby Crutchley will be missing from the Cannock line-up when they visit his old club, Hounslow

tomorrow, as the Premier lead-

ers will be looking to reassert themselves after their defeat at

home to Canterbury last week.

that game but expects to be fit

Crutchley broke a thumb in

Colin Hector and David Ralph, were outstanding and with Julian Halls showing his usual non-stop aggression, the coach, Billy McPherson, had no need to call upon himself.
The arrival of Chris Bloor, six

minutes into the game, hrought the first goal in a splendid move started deep in his own half by Ralph. carried on by Alan Philpot for Bloor to finish. Although the Spanish equalised shortly afterwards, a penalty stroke save by Jerry Garner gave the Old Boys confidence and they stormed back.

Chris Gladman was on hand

sence is hardly likely to deny him

weekend for two as the League's

leading scorer. He is currently

nine goals ahead of East Grin-

I spot for the first time since No-

vember by the time they meet

Cannock may have lost the No

stead's Richard Gibson.

minutes to the interval, Ralph's stick was chopped in the circle.

M Dal Maso

II minutes into the second half for Gladman's second goal and then five minutes later set up Bloor for his second.

the Scottish international put them further ahead from the penalty spot. A defensive lapse helped the Spanish reduced the arrears to 3-2 at half-time. Ralph was again the provider

Although Jorge Romero capitalised on another lapse of concentration for the final goal, Loughtonians were, by

now, home to a well deserved **Cannock must do without Crutchley**

> for England's trip to Pakistan Guildford on Hounslow's pitch immediately before them, and next month. His temporary abvictory would put them ahead, if the prize of a Forte Posthouse only temporarily.

Luke Hodges comes into the Teddington squad for Jason Laslett, who is on holiday. Teddington will hope to extend their run of wins to nine. Guildford are likely to be without Brett Garrard, their influential England Under-21 captain.

hard schedule on final day Skilng

Women face

Kick-off: 20 (860 Wates 2.0).

The last day of the Alpine World Championships in Sestriere tomorrow will be crowded with three medal races and some of the women having to compete twice within few hours. 🏟 Organisers said the women's combined downhill, which was called off on Thursday and yes-

would be held today at noon. Before that, the regular women's downhill will be held at 9.30am. The men's slalom, at 5pm and 8pm, will then be the final event.

terday due to had weather.

The rescheduling is likely to affect the German women skiers Katja Seizinger and Hilde Gerg most of all. Seizinger is the 1994 Olympic downhill champion and a front-runner for the world title. She is also well placed with

It is not be the first time this season that the women have had two speed races in a day. On 7 and hours later the downhill.

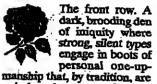
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Rugby's future

6 A seminar on the state of the game 7

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP: England's affable front rower has no time for wind-ups, he tells Chris Hewett

Regan can relish life as happy hooker



personal one-upmanship that, by tradition, are only loosely connected to the game of rugby going on around them. Mark Regan oever really fitted the mould: he was always strong, certainly, but silent? Pull the other one.

"Ronnie", as he is rather predictably nicknamed, spent much of his early career talking the hind legs off the opposition donkeys with whom he came in close, grappling contact. On one famous occasion at the Memorial Ground, where his beloved Bristol

were taking on a mighty set of New Zealand tourists from Canterbury, he_ formed

Richard Loe yes, the Richard Loe; the ultimate All Black

had been cracked up to be. "I'm in an armchair here," Regan said at the very first scrum. "You're not much cop, are plyou?" Alan Sharp, another of the Bristol front-rowers that night, was understandably mor-tified. "Regan's bloody mad," Sharp said attawayds. "Of all the people in the world to up-

set, he has to choose him." But that was then. Regan is now England's hooker as well as Bustol's - he won his hist cap against the South African world champions at Twickenham 16

a Test since - and as far as be is concerned, the burden of responsibility leaves no room for the tiro image. When he locks home with the Irish in Dublin this afternoon, concentration will hold the whip hand over

Not that you don't need to give as you get," he said this week. "Think of me in the middle of that first scrum, stuck there with my arms up around my head and vulnerable to whatever they throw at me. Every Irish side in history has been a handful and I don't suppose for a minute that these boys will be any different.
"But I'm a professional rug-

by player representing my 'Every Irish side

only thing I'm interested in is doing a profes-sional job. That has been a handful and I well at the line out scrumdon't suppose maging hard in the set-piece, these boys will himing every ruck and maul exhibit in the be any different I'm required to bit and putting

chamber of in my fair share horrors – that he was not all he of tackles. I used to enjoy a bit of a wind-up, but there doesn't seem to be the time these

days."

Regan is in his pomp at present. Full-time training has earned him some increased ballast - "Not an inch of fat. mind you, and I'm quicker over 20 metres than I've ever been? - and as he has always scrummaged every ounce of his weight, the Irish can expect to encounter almost 17st of singlemindedness today. But it is the growing maturity of his play that gan not only reads the press but makes him a live cootender for takes what he reads to heart, months ago and has not missed a Lions trip this summer. Un- and when be found himself on



rather than float around in the balmy open spaces of the three-

Life has not always been this sweet, though Regan was under considerable pressure from the moment he was asked to take over the hooking role from Brian Moore, who spent most of his 64-cap international career oot so much playing for England as symbolising them. "It was a big act to follow. I thought I might have received a good luck message from Brian but I've never beard a word from him. Perhaps that made me all the more determined to succeed."

It was not long before he felt the heat from the spotlight. Re-

like some of his rivals, be the wrong end of the tabloids prefers to work the "hard yards" after England's narrow defeat in Paris last year, his self-confidence was in danger of taking a one-way trip to oblivion:

"People are always telling me not to read the papers but I've oever been able to help myself and on that occasion, I let it get to me. I was well wound up until Jack Rowell phoned me and said: 'I know you've taken some stick but don't worry about a thing because we're all right behind you.' That was outstanding, because he told me exactly what I needed to bear. I've got respect for a man who looks after his players like

He has been well looked after in other quarters, too. Back in the 1960s, Bristol boasted wing forward in his day, good Eogland hookers in John ecough to get a trial for Bris-Thorne and the great John

Pullin while a third club stalwart, John White, was an international reserve in the position. With that sort of tradition behind him, it is little wonder that Regan received the right help

at the right time. Add to that the unstinting support of his nearest and dearest and you have a template for success. Father Mike introduced his soo to mini-rugby as an eight-year-old and bas driven him forward ever since. Indeed, Regan Inr was to all intents and purposes a semiprofessional player during the dying days of amateurism, thanks to some sympathetic employment in the family crane hire business.

"My dad was quite a decent tol, but injuries set in early and

In the end, he felt he sold himself short in his own rugby career and was determined I should give it my best shot. My parents travel all over the world to watch me play and oever miss a match; well, almost never. They didn't fly to West Hartlepool for Bristol's league match this season, but

minute ' As, indeed, Regan himself plans to enjoy it. Whatever else may have gone wrong for Eng-land in their four matches this season, the front row has proved durable, combative, highly skilled and supremely self-assured. The hooker puts much of it down to the influence

that's probably understand-

able. They'll certainly be io

Dublin and they'll enjoy every

anyway, I think be preferred a of his tight head, Jasoo drink to a hard training session. Leonard, the most-capped Eng-

lish prop of them all, "Jason will be worth his weight in gold today, with all that passion and craziness flying around. Wiggy [Graham Rowntree, the loose-head prop] and I are growing into our roles together - we're almost cap-for-cap - but Jasoo has been in there for years and his experience means a lot.
"He's been warning us all

week of what we can expect from a pumped-up Irish pack and he'll give it loads in the dressing-room this afternoon too. But on the pitch he'll just go about his business, dropping in the odd word of encourage-ment here and there. He doesn't oced to say much really because he knows we'll follow him wherever he goes."

Singleton powers Jets' twin ambition

Basketball RICHARD TAYLOR

Billy Singleton, the man mountain at the heart of Chester Jets breakthrough to the cluh's first ever major final, warned 7-UP League Trophy opponents Loodon Towers "we are ready, big time" as he looked forward to next month's showdown at Birmingham's NEC.

Chester and Towers put the final on the back burner this weekend as they resume their rivalry for the Budweiser League title io a five-way fight alongside Sheffield Sharks, Birmingham Bullets and the Docklands-based

Leopards.
The Jets, who reached the final after Thursday night's 93-92 semi-final win at Leices-ter City Riders, are away to Thames Valley Tigers tonight and at home to the Bullets to-

morrow. Chester's week began with a 76-75 League defeat at the Towers, which gave the title initiative to the Wembley-based club. The 6ft 8in Singleton, whose power plays and 32 points were the cornerstone of Thursday's victory, said: "It was a tough start to the week and now we've got another tough weekend. We must concentrate on that and forget the fioal for a while."

Towers reached the final with an 80-71 victory over Sheffield. Tonight Towers visit Manchester Giants, where the coach, Joe Whelton, is enduring a difficult return to English basketball after an allcooquering five years in Switzerland.

Last weekend Giants scrambled to a 76-73 win over the Tigers after three successive League defeats. Wheltoo said: We need people to step up and take responsibility and it just isn't happening.

Leicester's American Leon McGee vowed never to play for the club again after a row with the coach, Bob Donewald, condemned him to the bench for Thursday's semi-final with Chester, Tomorrow Leicester are at home to the Leopards. with Donewald hoping McGee will relent and play.

England recover from early shock

Irish teams had a glorious tradition of putting the fear of God into opponents in the first 20 minutes of a rugby match, but this was ridiculous. England A. by some distance the strongest second string in the European game, were taken so comprehensively to the cleaners in the early stages at Donnybrook yesterday that they must have wondered whether someone had substimted the All Blacks

for the black stuff. Killian Keane, Conor O'Shea and Gavin Walsh all crossed for tries in the opening flurry of fire and brimstone and England, 19 points in the red inside 12 minutes were looking at bumiliation on a grand scale.

itself out and once the calmer waters arrived, Tony Diprose

The No 8 and pack leader piece. His distribution was also of the highest class - he would oot look out of place at inside centre - and if the senior Eng-lish side still considers itself short of a cultured ball-carrier, it could do much worse than take a chance on the Saracens

Diprose played a decisive role in launching the fightback, feeding Adedayo Adebayo with a scoring pass after the switched flanks as Dan Luger

Thankfully from their point piled over himself near the of view, the Irish storm blew Irish posts after a series of tapped penalties, his side were back at the races come the interval, just a converted try was able to mastermind a full adrift at 15-22.

was in the most inspired form, repeatedly making acres of on another strong run from ground from the base of the set- Luger to square it. The Irish were in a state of shock that almost bordered oo depression; not only had they lost what should have been a decisive lead, but also their outside-half. Paul Burke, who had looked capable of running England ragged in the 19 minutes he was on the field. Sadly, the Bristol playmaker had been led off suf-

fering from a suspected broken Bath wing had cleverly a three-point lead to the Irish made a long diagonal run from tries from Nick Greenstock, right to left. When he then Neil Back and Mark Mapletoft

hardly a vintage display by the English - Richard Hill, their coach, had anticipated a comfortable victory, not a seat-of-the-pants job - but if they are Four minutes into the second going to be this difficult to beat, their heart is obviously in

the right place.

treland A: Trips Keere, O'Shee, Walsh, Mal-one; Conversions Burks 2; Pensities Keene 2. England A: Tries Adebayo, Diprose, Ben-ton, Greenstock, Back, Magteotic Conversions Mapletoft 4; Pensities Mapletoft 2. SELIAND A: C O'Shee (London Irish, capt); D Crotty (Samyosen), K McQallidin flansdowne), K Kamer (Genyosen), N Woode (London Irish); P Bantar (Richal), S Micher (Sanyosen); H Ma-

Even though Keane restored with a 49th-minute penalty,

ENGLAND A: It Book (Northempton); D Luger (Harloquins), N Generatiock (Wasps), W Greanwood (Leichster, capt), A Adelbayo (Buch); M Mayletoff (Gloucoster), S Boston

"IN IRELAND THE INEVITABLE NEVER HAPPENS AND THE UNEXPECTED CONSTANTLY OCCURS"

JOHN PENTLAND MAHAFFY

Wallace puts on late show for victory

Ireland Under-21. England Under-21

Ireland unexpectedly extended their segmence of victories to three in the series of under-21 matches against England, by winning a contest of extraordinary vigour and excitement at Greystones, near Dublin, yesterday with a try by their no 8, David Wallace, in the third

27

minute of injury time. Having beaten the Irish only twice before at this level, Engand appeared at last to have removed the Indian sign Ireland held over them when, with 15 annutes remaining, Paul Gus-

tard scored England's fourth try to leave Ireland trailing by 13

Far from being the signal to accept a third defeat this season, and add further disappointment after heavy losses to France and Wales during the last month, Ireland roused them-

selves for one final onslaught. Sustaining the intensity and organised maybem that passes for with Wallace claiming their creativity throughout their rug-by, Ireland improved their self-belief immeasurably when Ryan O'Neill scored a try eight minutes from time. Even then, Eng-

land's composure seemed intact. But the truth is, had England not squandered so much quality possession earlier in the game, and failed so routinely to

convert their chances into scores, they would have been too far out of reach for Ireland to have harboured any notion of victory.

A disbelieving Clive Woodward, England's coach, said: "So often we got through the first line of defence, but didn't put the chances away."

opening by after a driving maul. Richard Governey kicked two penalties and a dropped goal. England's response was a try by Joe Worsley and a Rob Hitchmough penalty.

Before Wallace eventually

left his indelible mark on the game, England scored 19 points without reply including three

tries - one each for Roy Win ters, his replacement Gustard, and the tight-head prop Chris Horsman - and two conversions by Hitchmough. Ultimately it

Breg Lard U-21: R Hillchenough (Dreit); T Balan Sale), J Bornas, M Penry (both Beth), R Lleyst (Jaicester); P Sempson (Wange), J D'Reitly Salet; M Westley (Dreit), A Long, C Honnaton, (both Beth), C Hamply (Wast Hartspool, capt), C Ellian (Brit), E Penroe (Elacusettin), J Won-ley (Waspa), R Whitens (Bedfoot), Raykee-mantic M Wignel (W Hartson) for Resin. 5.7 od (W Ha



ne in the FA Cup final. United, second tes at 5-1, were ed vesterday by one the tune of £10,000.



TODAY'S NUMBER 5,000-1 odds offered by book ers William Hill on eld and Wresham

NOT EVERYTHING IN BLACK AND WHITE MAKES SENSE. GUINNESS



Bradford City's manager has buried his hard-man image and built his First Division side's passing game around Chris Waddle's subtle skills. **Phil Shaw** met him as he prepared his players to face Sheffield Wednesday tomorrow



Kamara's secret depths

uring two decades as 8 mid-field enforcer, the intensity of Chris Kamara's tackling came to be feared by those who carried the flame for football's finer arts. In his first full season as manager of Bradford City, he is confronting people's preconceptions with similar zeal.

Ten years ago this month, the man now striving to make stadford a basnon of the beautiful game became the first player ever to face police pro-ceedings for an nn-field incident. Kamara received a four-figure fine for breaking an opponent's jaw, and, by his own admission, had run up "a terrible list of bookings and five or six sendings-off before retiring.

By an unhappy coincidence, the Bradford board recently started legal action against a Huddersfield player. Gordon Watson, making nnly his third appearance after Kamara bought him from Southampton for a club-record £550,000, had a leg broken in two places in a challenge by Kevin Gray.

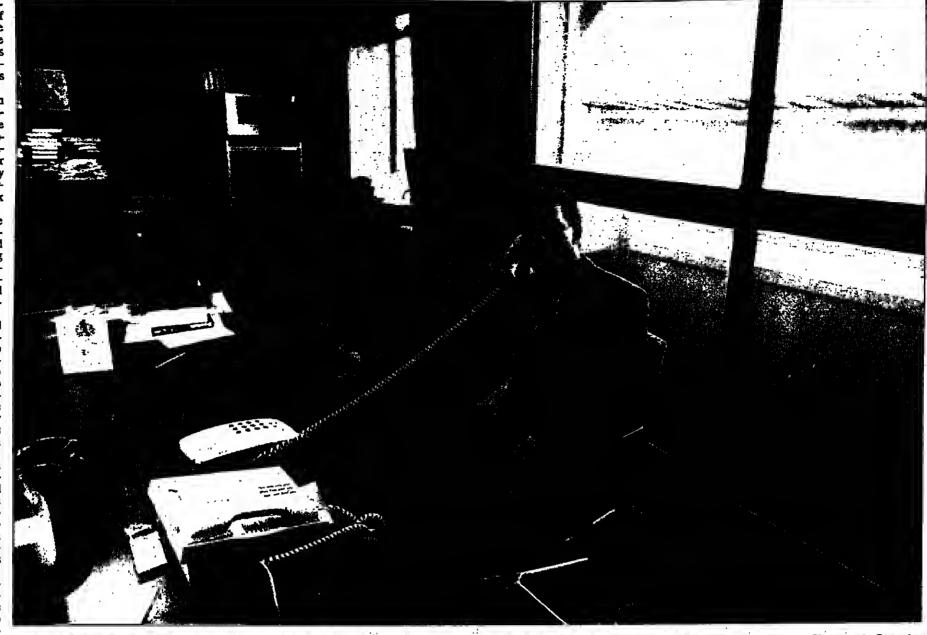
Although Kamara was so incensed by the incident that he had to be restrained by his players, he sees no contradiction or hypocrisy in his apparent change from poacher to gamekeeper. There was certainly no macho posturing about the altercation that put him in the dock in his Swindan days. He paid a heavy price, both financially and in terms of his reputation, but that was then and this is now

If he had built Bradford in his own image as a player, tomorrow's sellnut hnme tie against Sheffield Wednesday in the FA Cup's fifth round would have been the definitive clash of styles. Instead, it promises tn be a purist's delight, with Chris Waddle amnng those uphnlding Kamara's improbable principles against David Pleat's side.

The match has added intrigue because Pleat, whose teams are the antithesis of route-one or rough-hnuse football, deemed Waddle surplus to requirements. Last autumn, First Division Bradford took him in at Valley Parade. He remains there after spurning the post of player-manager at West Bromwich, his renaissance providing a stylish symbol of Kamara's conversion.

At least it looks like a U-turn to the outsider. Kamara, whose gentleeloquence and wry humour further belie his image, argues that it is foot-ball which has changed, not him. 'I've always thought it was a beautiful game and that the ball should be passed around," he says. "I also believe you can create goalmouth excitement without resorting to the Inng-ball game."

It is as if Kamara has rekindled an adnlescent passion. While some regard it as gaucheness, he was not dis- in flair (as well as a judicious ex- fer from Stoke to Leeds in 1990. The urday, was fantastic. pleased when nne newspaper ploitation of the Bosman ruling bookings dried up, the skill began to "Howard was my dream manag- gist whn bars Bradford's path to the fullowers christened "the king of ple," he says, a man of described him as "39 going on 13". while funds went into ground im- show. At 32, Kamara made his de- er, somebody I'd been crying out to quarter-finals. "David Pleat proba- swaying hips" even scored. Wim- more senses than one.



Chris Kamara in his pitch-side office at Valley Parade: 'I spent the best part of 20 years trying to stop people like Chris Waddle from playing'

Photograph: Peter Jay

Yet he offers another, pragmatic, reason for eschewing the cynical methods of his past. "Some of the things I did on the pitch, you couldn't do today because of the rule changes covering things like the tackle from behind," he says, the honesty as brutal as a whack on the shin. "Nowadays you need people who are skilful rather than physical in the English

"I spent the best part of 20 years trying to stop pemple like Chris Waddle from playing. Now I'm con-vinced that good touch and loads of movement are the way forward."

Bradford's squad reflects his faith

provements). It includes a Dutchman, two Portuguese (one of Brazilian nrigin), sundry Scandinavians and the pass master who once kept Paul Gascoigne out of the England team, Gordon Cowans. Kamara makes nn secret either of his interest in reuniting Waddle with Peter Beardsley in City's claret and amber.

It appears to be a classic cast of do as I say, not as I did". But while the former dockyard apprentice from Teesside was a ball-winner, with all that term implied, he always felt there was a more constructive player trying to get nut.

The catalyst proved to be a trans-

hnt at the top level as an emergency left-back, subdoing Tony Daley withnut recourse to ruggedness. He went on to enjoy a trouble-free run, never playing the sore thumb among sophisticates like Gordon Strachan and Gary McAllister,

"My only regret is that I didn't play for Howard Wilkinson earlier. would have achieved more and played even Innger if I had. At other clubs I was with, the players were always anxious about money, about making ends meet. So tn go somewhere as well organised as Leeds, where almost the only thing you had to worry about was playing on a Sat-

Morton v Dunden

Clydebank v St Mirren

Second Division

Third Divisions

TOMORROW.

49 East Stiffling v Forfar

FA Cup fifth round

elcester v Cheisea (4.10)

Nationwide League

First Division

45 Rengers v East Fife

44 Motherwell v Hamilton.....

Bell's Scottish League

- Berwick v Queen of the South 46 Stenhousemulr v Ayr

47 Albion Rovers v Inverness CT

predford City v Sheffield Wed (1.30)

ents Scottisk Cup

play for. He encouraged me to cut out the reckless challenges - fined me for them - and it worked well for me. He's so meticulnus. If anyone was made to be FA technical direc-

From Lou Macari, at Swindon, he learned that managers do not have to court popularity to earn respect, At Sheffield United, Dave Bassett was strong nn squad spirit. Serving under Lennie Lawrence at Middlesbrough and Bradford was equal-ly instructive. "He's gnt a great knowledge nf football but is also in-credibly laid-back, which I envy," Kamara says.

hly did more for me [at Luton] than anyone apart from Howard. He nnly had to see a player nnce to work out all their strengths and weak-

Kamara is grateful, onne the less, that Pleat saw fit to free Waddle. "Chris should still be playing top-quality football week in, week out. The bigger the stage, the better he is, as he proved in the fourth round at Everton. But he's also been superb at places like Wycombe and Grimsby." Waddle, a cult figure with sup-

porters, is obviously enjoying his football again. And, as if to prove that Kamara is not the nuly one break-Then there was the shrewd strate- ing new ground, the man Marseilles' "Howard was my dream manage gist whn bars Bradford's path to the fallowers christened "the king of ple," he says, a man of conviction in

bledon-style, with a far-post header against Huddersfield. At Goodison Park, he embarrassed Neville Southall with a majestic chip from-

One theory as to why the bigger clubs ignored Waddle is that they doubted his capacity, in his 37th year, to sustain his impact on a game. It may also be that some managers were afraid to bring in a charismatic figure who might have ended up replacing them.

What if 21st-placed Bradford end up being relegated - surely Waddle's presence offers an instant solution for the chairman? "Of course it could happen, but I can't worry about that," Kamara says. "I have to do what best for the club.

"But I believe in my ability in promised my chairman, Geotting Richmond, promotion last season when I took over, which we achieved despite starting from mid-table. You must stick by your beliefs. To me, signing someone of Chris's class is never a gamble. "Results weren't good before

Christmas, but I can assure you we won't be in the bottom three at the end of the season. We've been playing the best football this city's evid seen - all that was missing was the firepower, which is why the chairman put up the money for Watson." Lofty claims. To substantiate them

Kamara points to a near doubling of attendances since last season, casi-ly the biggest rise in all four divisions (a) As proof of their Premiership po-tential, he cites last May's invasion of Wembley by 30,000 Bradfordians for the play-off final victory over

int the play-off final victory over Notts County.

Ending the season in triumph made a welcome change, Kamara explained. As a player with Luton, Middlesbrough and Sheffield United, he was relegated from the top section three years running. "They say that Coventry used in pay clubs to sign me," he says with deadoan delivery.

Mention of Luton's demise reminds Kamara of his return to El-

minds Kamara of his return to Elland Road in their colours. Eric. Cantona had just scored his first good for Leeds and the man from York shire TV pressed Lee Chapman, who once played in France and had offered to act as an interpreter, to ask him about it.

"So Chappy turned to Eric and said [slips into Inspector Clouseau accent]: 'Ow duz eet feel to ev scoored year feurst gal?' Not surprisingly, Eric was speechless."
Much as Chris Kamara would love

to leave his own manager that day, David Pleat, lost for words, Bradford will not set out to beat Wednesday at any cost. "Football's about winning and I'm a winner, but you also have to set standards and entertain peo-

TEAM NEWS, MAJOR WEEKEND FOOTBALL FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK

FA CUP

FOURTH ROUND Blackburn v Coventry

Biackburn will again be without long-term absentees Pearce, Fenton, Ripley and Coleman. Ukranian international detender Yevtushok, an £800,000 signing from Dnepr Dnepropetrovsk, may be called up for his Coventry debut as Breen is crue-tied.

FIFTH ROUND Birmingham v Wrexham

Birmingham could be without nine players, with former FA Cup winners Bruce, Ablett (both hamstring) and Limpar (knee) all doubtful, while Devlin has a back problem. Definitely out are knee-injury victims Francis and fart, the suspended Grainger, Barnett, who has glandular lever, and the cup-tied pair Forster and Il Connor. Newell has been recalled from his loan spell with West Harn. Hurnes, Ward and Brace all face late fitness tests for Wrexham, so Chesterfield v N Forest

Chesterfield captain Dyche will under-go a late fitness test on a hamstring go a late fitness test on a hamstring stram. Holland is struggling with a groin injury, while Davies, who scored a hat-trick in the last round, is trying to shake off a bout of translifts. Williams is def-initely out through suspension. Forest player-manager Pearce is banned, so Germhill is likely to return with Phillips moving to left-back.

Leeds v Portsmouth Bowyer (ankle) faces a late fitness test for Leeds. Portsmouth's Swedish striker Svensson also has a test on an arm injury. Whitbread is available following a knee injury.

Man City v Middlesbro For City, Brightwell, Beagrie and Mc-Goldrick are all fit. Middlesbrough will

3.0 unless stated FA Cup fourth round lackburn v Coventry FA Cup fifth round Birmingham v Wrexham .

Derby v West Harn ..

field v Nottingham Forest Leeds v Portsmouth Manchester City v Middlesbrough **FA Carling Premiership**

from a loan spell with Grimsby. Wimbledon v QPR

Holdsworth is set to retain his place for the Dons. Rangers will be without the suspended impey and Maddix, but Spencer is expected to shake off an an-kle injury to lead the front line. TOMORROW

Bradford C v Sheff Wed Bradford manager Kamera has a full squad to choose from as City are are

free of injury and suspension. In con-

trast, Wednesday have injury worries over Pembridge (back), Hyde (thigh), Nolan

Nationwide League First Division

Bolton v Sheffield United Charliton v Bamsley Grimsby v Huddersfield ... Norwich v West Bromwich Port Vale v lpswich... Southend v Stoke ...

Second Division Bournemouth v Burnley. Bristol Rovers v Luton ...

10 Milwell v Romenerii
11 Notis County v Blackpool ...
Peterborough v Bristol City ...
12 Plymouth v Bury
13 Preston v Wycombe
14 Stockport v Shrewsbury
15 York v Gillingham

Third Division 16 Carlisle v Brighton 17 Derlington v Scummorpe 18 Doncaster v Bernet

22 Leyton Orient v Cambridge Utri 23 Mansfield v Lincoln 24 Rochdale v Northampton 25 Swansea v Scarborough

and Blinker (both knee) all doubtful. Trustfull is out (medial ligaments). Leicester v Chelsea Leicester have Izzet, Lennon, Heskey and Elliott suspended, Whitlow, Hill and Ka-Embit suspended, written, mile and na-mark are all out injured, while Lawrence, Taylor and Waish are struggling for full fitness. Viaill is likely to be left kicking his heels on the Chelsea bench again.

PREMIERSHIP Derby v West Hazz Derby's Crost defender Stimec makes his first appearance of 1997, hav-

GM Vauxhall Confere 26 Dover v Bromsgrova 27 Famborough v Stelybridge

29 Hallfax v Bath City. 31 Maccleslield v Rushden 33 Slough v Northwich

34 Stevenage v Kettering . - Woking v Southoort

Icis League
Premier Division

- Aylesbury v Grays

- Bishop's Stortford v Hendon

Boreham Wood v Carshelton 36 Enfield v Chertsey 37 Harrow v Hitchin 38 Heybridge v Dulwich

Purfleet v Oxford City 40 Sutton Utd v St Albeins. 41 Yeading v. Bron

ints Scottish Cup Fourth round - Brechin v Raith Rovers 43 Clyde v Klimernock

Hereford v Cardiff City (12.15) Fourth round Hearts v Dundee United (3.15): **Tottenham v Arsenal**

ing recovered from a hemia opera-tion. However, Laursen (calf), Willems (hamstring) and Carbon (groin) are all out, while Darryl Powell starts a three-match ben, Dailly returns from Spurs striker iversen should be fit af ter a recent groin injury, while Ander ton could make his first start for sever weeks after knee trouble. Dozzeli has weeks after knies trouve. Locate has also recovered from a celf injury and is in 8 17-man squad along with Calderwood, who has completed a twosuspension and Ward has recovered from ankle and shin injuries. Strkers Hartson and Kitson both make their West Ham debuts, while Dowle wood, who has completed a two-match ban. He replaces Nethercott, who misses out because of his own one-match suspension. Adams could play s expected to be on the bench after recovering from a fractured anfor Arsenel despite an ankle injury, kle which has kept him out for two months. Bilic is suspended, Moncur has a knee injury and Portirlo is hopwith a small tear in a knee ligament as is Platt, who is still struggling with a hamstring problem. Berglamp returns from his three-match suspension.

No 205 Chelsea

Immediately after the remarkable fourth round FA Cup tie between Chelsea and Liverpool, the London side were installed as 4-1 favourites to win their first trophy in 26 years.

The price may have lengthened since but this was bad news for all Chelsea fans especially the more superstitinus nnes like myself. (Blues followers are notorious for trying anything they can to ensure success. During our Cup run in 1994, I misted nn shouting "Come On You Blues" three times every time I drove over Hammersmith Bridge on the way into work). Let's face it, it would not be wholly imexpected if Leicester were to shatter our illusions to-

morrow at Filbert Street. Such confidence, or lack of t, in your side comes from years of Cup disappointments and disasters. Chelsea followers, more than most, will understand exactly how those distraught Liverpool fans felt once the realisation of defeat crept up on them. Chelsea, though, are the undisputed experts. Barusley, Bolton, Cardiff, Oxford, Scarborough and Scunthorpe are just a few of the European "giants" that have cut us down to Chelsea will visit Leicester

last eight. However, the fans are

taking nothing for granted. I hesitate to say this, but the signs are hopeful. Ruud Gullit does not share our bad memories though he does admit to prefer playing the big boys from the Premiership as opposed in the so-called minnows from the lower divisinns. Maybe he knows more than he lets nn.

Without wanting to tempt fate, Chelsea are playing their most attractive football for many years. The influx of foreign players has inspired everybody at the club. A colleague tells me that the Stamford Bridge press box has also become a melting pot for overseas journalists, waiting to watch the delightful skills of Zola, Di Matteo, Vialli, Leboeuf and Petrescu. The club is revitalised and the changes to the stadium reflect this. As well as the recent flotation, the club are soon to launch their own radio station (backed by Boh Geldof's Plant 24) and already have their own in-house TV channel, imagi-natively called "Channel Chelsea". Indeed Chelsea are making giant strides though fully expecting to reach the soon there is likely to be the same pressure to win some sil-

verware as Newcastle Realistically the BBC can hardly expect a re-peat of the Chelsea v Liverpool epic this Sunday: Some matches will live

very long in the memory and this was one of them. A 4-4 draw for the Blues (having been 3-0 down at half-time) 12 years ago at Sheffield Wednes day was a personal favourite Who else can rorget Arsenal's last-minute champinnship clincher at Anfield in 1989? In the 90s alone, three nthor matches deserve a special mention. Firstly that dramatic FA Cup semi-final at Vills Park in 1990 which saw Crystal Palaci beat Liverponl 4-3. Secondly, the 4-4 extravaganza at Good ison Park between the two Merseyside sides in 1991 and just in case Liverpool fans thought I was trying to ruh salt in their wounds, last season's 4-3 victory against Newcastle which put an end to the Toon Army's title aspirations. (I daren't mention the latter's last-gasp 4-3 win last week just in case their opponents do the same thing to us tomorrow).

I noly hope Leicester do the honnurable thing and let Chelsea progress. They are welcome to the Coca-Cola Cup. As for me, Hammersmith Bridge is now closed for a year so I am seeking an urgent aiternative to air my superstitions

Whichever team wins, the celebrations will go on all night. Luckily, so do we

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Richard Hornsby-Smith

steps up

PAUL INCOME.

"THE STREET 444.42 1411年 Tiley bi

Pies or players - that's the stark choice Scotland face if they want to produce the likes of Dalglish, Cooper or Law again

Waiting for my daughter's birth is like waiting for a Scotland goal - eagerly pretender to Scotland's goalkeeping anticipated, but anybody's guess when it's going to happen. And she might one day have to choose if she wants to pledge her future to Scotand or England since she has a Scotand or England s ish dad and English mum.

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It's unlikely ever to become an Sue. However, this matter of na-ionality does seem to be growing in-reasingly blurred around the edges. One wonders, for example, for Andy Caddick feels as he bowls for England in his former home town of Christchurch: wbether Matt Le Tissier wishes he'd chosen to per-sonify Gallic flair rather than English graft; whether one-time England schoolboy Ryan Giggs, who pulled out of yet another Welsh friendly this week, regrets choosing the Welsh dragon above the English lion;

ersey who made his debut for Wales els as Scottish as he says he does? Sullivan's case is the most disturbing. The Wimbledon keeper

may not be (as he's admitted) "your haggis-eating, kilt-wearing Bomie Prince Charlie" but no matter, this is after all the caring 90s when we can even accept dear old Vinnie playing for Wales, so it'd be wrong to deny Sullivan his charce.

The worrying thing is that Scot-land seem to be following the lead of the Irish and the Welsh in searching for players with temoous links to the motherland or, in this case, the grandmother land.

It was significant that in the week Sullivan got the nod, Bolton pulled out of a deal with Aberdeen for Scott Booth. A few years ago Booth and Eoin Jess were considered Scotland's brightest young stars. Jess has hardly set the heather alight since he came south to Coventry, and now Booth finds himself rejected by a First Di-

It was also significant that last Saturday Gordon Durie became the first Scot to score for Rangers this year. It was only five years ago that Leeds were beaten in the European Cup by a Rangers side with a backbone of Scots.

Yet European players now form the nucleus of both Rangers and Celtic. Where once they would have bought Scottish, they now look to Europe, while the best that Scotland has to offer - players such as Paul LamOlivia Blair



Compared to the 70s and early

80s, few venture over Hadrian's Wall. Then, the top sides seemed to be brimming with influential Jocks: Law, Strachan, Buchan and Macari at Manchester United; Lorimer, Jordan and the Grays at Leeds and Dalglish, Hansen, Souness, and Nicol at Liverpool.

Corrently I can think of only four Scottish players who play a pivotal role in their English sides: Hendry (Blackburn), McAllister (Coventry), Ferguson (Everton) and McGinlay (Bolton). Scotland is not widely considered to be the healthiest breeding grounds for the footballers of the future, although some English clubs still have a strong scouting presence there, notably Coventry and Manchester United: Even the late Davie Cooper once admitted: "If I was 18 again, I wouldn't stay here. Strength has replaced skill as the most important credential. If you can put your foot on the ball and slow the game down,

von stick out a mile.'

Brown, Scotland's manager, it will

be "a very long time before we get another Dalglish". Brown refuses to blame the dearth of such players on the structure of the Scottish Premier Division in which clubs play each other at least four times a season so that a player's tech-nique is all but sussed out before he has a chance to mature. He says Scotland's current plight "has more to do with evolution, an accident of birth" and stresses that the Scottish Foot-bell Association are committing to de-veloping excellence, with plans afoot

ment made by Aberdeen's general manager, David Johnson, that "pies are probably the most sacrosanct to set up a residential centre for the

best young players.
Brown's predecessor, Andy Rox-

If that's the case, when will we see the likes of Dalglish, Jordan, Cooper and Law again? According to Craig ago. For example - blacs parks. The ago. For example - blass parks. The west of Scotland is the only place I've ever seen them. Whoever dreamed up crushed red shale as a suitable football surface certainly never asked anyooe in the game"

Perhaps the problem is an even more parochial one than that, as David Murray once observed. "A few of us want to discuss super leagues," said the Rangers chairman, "but all the rest can talk about is the price of meat pies." Set against the comthing in Scottish football", that's hardly surprising. But it would be nice to think the Scots felt the burgh, claimed the problem with the development of young talent in do their pies.

Big chance for the small clubs

Guy Hodgson on this weekend's round in the most open FA Cup for years



FA Cup fifth round day. Every club counts three matches to Wembley and a frisson of excitemeot runs through them. More so this year than for a long

The twin towers which beganas a desirable but hazy vision m January has become a more defined objective for the surviving clubs this year thanks to the abence of the usual suspects when it comes to making off with the trophy m May. . :

Arsenal, Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham have won the Cup every year bar two since 1981 and with their removal the temptation to think about ticed who's left io the tailors checking for the fitting of Wembley suits becomes irresistible. It has been the year of the upset. We are seeing the be fascinating anyway but the oever-bads.

Even Manchester City, whose wretched season of chopping and changing managers suddeoly has taken an alternative complexion. They meet the Premiership's bottom club Middlesbrough in the fifth round today to the accompaniment of warnings from the po-lice saying they will clamp down times this year. "I believe I have

Ah, the heavy beat Trafford, of course, but at of anticipation on Maine Road?

There will be 31,000 to watch the First Division team that lost matches almost as frequently as they discarded name plates on the boss's door until Frank Clark's appointment in December arrested the decline so much so and they go into today's match with a seven game unbeaten nan.

Expectation, fanned by United's defeat at Wimbledon, is rampant in the sky blue side of Manchester which has had Clark dashing for a huge dose of reality. "There's an opportunity because the bigger clubs are out," he said, "but unless we win today the opportunity will have gone. Clubs like Middiesbrough will also have nocompetitioo."

The match of aspiring giants in stricken circumstances would two dribblers in Britain. The Portsmouth who travel to twinkling feet of Georgi Kinkladze have illuminated City's path to safety while Juninho seems to be inspired by the prospect of playing at Wembley. Certainly it has lit Kinkladze's touchpaper and yesterday he was talking about

lice saying they will clamp down times this year. "I believe I have on licket touts, Old hat at Old chances in the FA Cup, the pro-



Georgi Kinkiadze (left) and Juninho, who are crucial to their club's Cup hopes

*Adams doubtful as Arsenal look to regain lead



and England in April. I think promotion is possible if City can who fly the flag for the Second Division after removing such keep on playing as they have."
A severe dose of Cup fever has ootables as Bolton and West Ham respectively. Chesterfield, in the fifth round

for the first time in 47 years, play host to Nottingham Forest with frustrated Gianluca Vialli on the City are one of seven Nationwide clubs hoping to make per, Sean Dyche (who used to Leeds with five consecutive play for Forest), and the scorer of a hat-trick at Burnden Park, wins behind them and Queen's Kevin Davies. There are fitness Park Rangers, who will try to halt the Wimbledoo charge in all three domestic trophies. Inproblems for Wrexham's match at Birmingham, but it is the deed there is only one all-Prebome side who are afflicted with nine players doubtful inmicrship tie today and even that is a throwback to the fourth cluding their captain, Steve round, Blackburn versus

Coventry, for the right to meet er, they are mild compared to in the last round and the over-

The lowest placed of the lot Leicester City's. They meet are Chesterfield and Wrexham Chelsea tomorrow with Mustafa Chelsea tomorrow with Mustafa Izzet, Neil Lennon, Emile Heskey and Matt Elliott suspended, three players definitely out injured and another four doubtful. Chelsea, meanwhile, can

> also takes place tomorrow when Bradford City, complete with sion while they're in the Pre-36-year-old Chris Waddle, play miership's top 10, so we've bost to Sheffield Wednesday, who released the former England winger last summer. Waddle scored a goal to

eclipse even David Beckham's effort against Wimbledon with If they have worries, howev- an exquisite lob against Everton

Also at the top of the table, second-placed Wolverhampton

Wanderers meet Crystal Palace,

all quality of his performance that day will ensure he will be man-marked, probably by Peter

Photographs: Albert Cooper/David Ashdown

"I don't care what they do," he said. "If you're marked you might not get as much of the ball but you drag people away and it's up to your team-mates to use Arguably the tie of the round worry about us. We're fourth from bottom of the First Divimiership's top 10, so we've nothing to lose." In the year of the upset,

more than the Wednesday players will be concerned this morning. With the path to Wembley less congested with heavyweights than normal they may

match of the year last week but

are without Richard Rufus, Mark

Kinsella and Brendan O'Connell,

all through suspension.
The pick of the Third Division

Liverpool link up with Crewe

Liverpool were at pains yester-day to deny that the "alliance" they have formed with Crewe Alexandra was just another word for the formation of the first nursery club in the English game.

Officially, the liaison with the Second Division club is designed to enhance the development of young players and is not linked to recent proposals that lower level sides should become feeder clubs for Premiership big fish.

The alliance was announced 24 bours after Liverpool took Crewe's 23-year-old midfielder Gareth Whalley on trial with a view to a permanent move.

Liverpool will have no sharebolding or financial stake in Crewe who are to maintain

their autonomy.

A statement issued by Liverpool said: "The alliance was efits despite the differences in chief executive, said. stature, size and likely future development of the two parties.

"Although smaller in all respects, Crewe Alexandra mirrors Liverpool in many ways, with its commitment to profes-

lished record in the development of new talent and the acknowledged quality of its coaching systems.

"The clubs see a number of

benefits from improved contacts, including increased commercial opportunities for both parties and closer liaison between the training and coaching staffs of both clubs with regard to the development of young players.

Ronnie Whelan has beco reinstated as Southend United's manager four days after he was suspended by the club and 24 hours after being charged by the Football Association with misconduct.

"We bave now had the op-portunity of studying the ref-eree's report, looking at the video of the game and discussing the matter with Rooperceived to offer mutual ben-nie," John Adams, Southend's

Whelan and his assistant, Theo Foley, were involved in a touchline incident with a linesman during last Saturday's match at Manchester City. Both were sent off and Foley

East Fife going west

Scottish football

RUPERT METCALF

East Fife have become used to being on the wrong end of thrashings this season - and little is likely to change today. Sixteen points adrift at the bottom of the Bell's Scottish League First Division, the bapless men from Methil are off to Ibrox for a daunting Tennents Scottish Cup fourth-round tie. Jimmy Booe, the East Fife

manager, said: "The majority of my players are part-timers and combine their football with work commitments. But they are hungry to progress and we know we have nothing to lose on Saturday."

East Fife know that the only thing they are likely to be taking home from Glasgow to the Fife coast is a six-figure cheque, which will help them fund their move to a new stadium.

East Fife have won just one of their 26 league games - the worst record in British football. Their goalkeeper Lindsay Hamilton, once on the books at Rangers under Graeme Souness.

has conceded 73 goals, but Bone insists there is little point in him or his players worrying about Bristars. "If I thought about the likes of Landrup, I would have been sleepless for three weeks since the draw," Booe said. "If those guys play to their form, then it could be a long afternoon for us, but we will do our best."

Rangers will be without Paul Gascoigne, whose ankle injury will keep him out for at least another week, and their Chilean striker, Sebastian Rozental.

Alan Sugar

On 20th January 1994 we published an article concerning the delay at that time in the appointment of Terry Venables as England coach. This report may have been understood to suggest that Alan Sugar bad sought to cause the delay. Alan Sugar wishes to make it clear that he always believed Terry Venables was the best man for the England job and at oo time ables' appointment by threats of legal action or otherwise.

knowing they can go top of the defeat by Leeds 11 days ago. Refiniership for the first time Goalkeeper David Seaman, since mid-December if they who also missed the game at

Assemal go into feday's north London derby at Tottenham win by two clear goals.
Tony Adams, kept out of

The defender faces a late fitness test on the twisted ankle sustained in Arsenal's 1-0 FA Cup Wembley, is definitely ont.

England's World Cup qualifier 'Highbury in November and First Division, Bolton Wanderwith Italy on Wednesday by inhave won just three of 12 games ers hope to extend their ninetry, has "a 20 per cent chance" since also have injury problems. point advantage at the top of the

read and you must drive the ball

in the fairway. It is an absolute

must," said Woods, whose

round was marred by bogeys on

the last two holes that left him

sharing ninth place.

Jose Maria Olazabal has still

his comeback at the Dubai

Desert Classic in two weeks'

time but he has asked his man-

ager to arrange a visa for him.

ment since September 1995 be-cause of meannatoid arthritis in

both feet, but after treatment

from a German sports medicine

He has not played a tourna-

of playing, according to Arsène "Any good squad can absorb table when they meet fourth-Wenger, the Arsenal manager." one or two injuries, but not nine placed Sheffield United. Bolton as we had at one point recently," Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, said. "To be honest, I would rather Arsenal were still in the FA Cup and we wouldn't have to play them until the end of the season." In the Nationwide League

been diagnosed.

First Division, Bolton Wander-

are likely to be without their Danish midfielder Per Frendsen, injured in last week's 3-1 defeat at Reading, and United are without their goalkeeper Alan Kelly, who has a back mjury. Colin Todd, the Bolton man-

ager, is keen to increase his team's lead, saying yesterday: "This is a vital stage of the sea-SPORTING DIGEST

who are sixth. Wolves are expected to field an unchanged line-up as they look for a fifth consecutive League win, while Palace are without Ray Hooghtoo and goalkeeper Chris Day through injury. Third-placed Barnsley, ex-

pected to be at full-strength, visit Chariton, who won their first

is the meeting of Fulham and Wigan. Second-placed Fulham

are looking to recover from a 2-0 defeat at Lincoln last week, while the leaders, Wigan, ahead on goal difference and with a game in hand, will be confident after beating Carlisle last weekend.

(F) 6-3 6-1; T Enqvist (Swe) bt O Hroaty (Sto-veld) 6-3 5-2; H Dreekman (Ger) bt T Carbonell (Sp) 1-6 7-5 6-1; S Bruguere (Sp) bt L Roux (Fr) 2-6 6-4 6-2; F Sentoco (Fr) bt P Norta (Cz Rep) 6-4 6-4. 6-4 6-4. LTA MEN'S SICHELLITE YOURGHAMENT (Chigwell) Quantum Sauke J Delgado (183) by L Millegtin (183) 6-1 6-1; A Richardson (183) by T Spirks (183) 6-2 7-5; O Van Urbelan (184) by L Luskov (187) 6-3 6-4; C Prassley (US) by M Stading (Swe) 7-6 8-4; C Prassley (US) by M Stading (Swe) 7-6

Toylor (GE) bit Toutinek (Bels) 6-1 8-1.
ATP CHALLENGER (Librat, Ger) Selected
(Thursday): G Canas (Wg) at M Petchey (GE)
8-1 7-6.
PARES WOMEN'S OPEN Second cound (Thursday): M Petch (7-1) bit A Gets (CC Rep) w/o; Y 8ausis (Rich) bit Schulz-McCartly (Meh) 6-4 3-6
6-2; J Novora (CC Rep) bit K Booger (Neth 6-2
6-4; A Huber (Ger) bit S Appelmans (Be) 6-3 8-2;
I Spribe (Rom) bit C Rubin (US) 6-3 6-4; N Tauzser 4-1 bit Mehaudous (Slovat) 6-4.

Australian takeover The greens are very hard to

Lucas Parsons and Peter O'Malty moved four shots ahead of the pack after the second round of the Australian Masters. The two Australians were oo 15-under par with totals of 131 to decide whether he will make

for two rounds of the par-73

Huntingdale course, in Mel-

bourne. Tiger Woods added a lacklustre 70 to his first-round 68 to fall seven shots behind. Woods, who won the angkok Classic in Thailand on unday, described the Huntstale layout as "very difficult"

brite the abundance of low expert, he has been ereroising and practising regularly. **J**ames steps up a gear

Sieve James, a former member the rankings, moved into the last swing of things. 32 of the International Open in Aberdeen yesterday. James, registered only his fourth win in eight tourna-

in this season by defeating formance with orears of 45, 55, 45 and 47.

Some I was banned from driver in the right arbout of practice the right arbout of practice the feet addition to fast the feating him 13-11 in the World land. I am only the right arbours are the feating him 13-11 in the World of the right arbours are the feating him 13-11 in the World of the right arbours are to manner with orears of 45, 55, 45 and 47.

James is the only player to have bearen Stephen Hendry are feating him 13-11 in the World of the right are the right are

hours a week right oow and I badly oeed a lot of matches unof the world top 10 now 24th in der my belt to get back into the

"It's all about concentration with me and today that was pretty good," added James, who highlighted a solid performance with breaks of 46, 55, ments this season by defeating

MBA: Marri 108 Indiane 90; New York 107 Philadelphie 92; Delter 98 Golden Soste 107; Demer 117 A Laire 132; Uoh 110 Portland 86; Securetto 105 LA Cipper 98.

106 LA Cipper 98.

THURSDAY'S LATE (RDSULTS: Men's Euro
League Group II: Charlera (Bel) 90 Miscael Tel
Aur 62; Alba Bann 76 GSNA Moscow 76: Olympiatos (Gr) 94 Cibona Zagteb 76; Limique (Fr) 81.
Teamaystam Bologne (Fr) 70. Group II: Penforios (Gr) 94 Cibona Zagteb 76; Limique (Fr) 81.
Teamaystam Bologne (Fr) 90. Gerbay II: 89en Leventusen 85 Villasybarne (Fr) 90. G

Kent have signed Paul Strang, the Zim-babwe leg-spinner, as their overseas player for this summer on a one-year

player for this summer on a one-year contract as a temporary replacement for Carl Hooper.

SHEPPELD SHIELD GREAT by of fourt Hobert. Taxwaria to Store the Australia by the victients. Taxwaria as 70 A Johnson St., J.C. Souder 70) and 209 for 5 decimal fit Prefer Shoot. Taxwaria 246 ft 7 Porting 126. J.C. Souder 543 and 351 for 5 ft 7 Porting 146 not code. (Plast day of Sout) Pertity Watern Australia 317 for 3 (A Gooden 125no) v Queenteind. SUPPERSPORT SERRES (Plast day of Sout) Supersport SERRES (Plast day of Sout) East London: Boorle 312 for 8 ft N Watern 127no) v Gooden 126no) v Gueenteind. Supersport SERRES (Plast day of Sout) East London: Boorle 312 for 8 ft N Watern 127no) v Google House Supersport SERRES for 7 ft IN Rhoote Séro; C E Gueen 4-68 v Taxward. Pur Electronic Series on Positica 250 ft 5 ft. Noon 87. K C Wassels SS) v Northan Taxward. em Province 330 for 5 (1. J Noon 87. K C Wessels 58) v Northam Tamasani. HRISEDAYS: LATE RESSALT: Trianquitar teur-nament fissal (Duchant; South Africa 278 for 8 50 over; 8 Northant 51, b J Culliman ED; India 224 69.2 over; R 2 Dravd 84. South Africa won by 17 nans (rein-adjusted Begin).

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FO

The West Ham striker Steve Jones has joined Chariton for £400,000.

West Bromwich Albion have bought the left-back Graham Potter from Southemp-ton for an undisclosed fee, thought to be between £50,000 and £100,000. DATE OF CREATE THE STATE OF THE

A Britain and Ireland women's select team will play South Africa in an ama-teur international at Letham Grange, Scotland, on 4-5 June.

SCOTLAND, ON 4-5 June.
AUSTRALAM MASTERS (New Leabour technical scores (New Leabour technical) second-round scores (New Leabour technical) 123. P O'Mattey 65 68, L. Passons 64 67. 135 R Gharo 126. 137 W Geody 70 67. P Sentor 69 68, R David 72 68, 137 W Geody 70 67, P Sentor 69 68, R David 72 68, 138 P Lorand 69 66, T Notor 68 70 IES. Living 615 62 70. Sentor 69 68, R David 72 68, 138 P Lorand 69 66, T Notor 68 67 71. Sentor 610 73 68 70 IES. Living 615 62 70. Sentor 610 62 M Mart. Living 610 73 68 P Loran. 64 E Dougliery, L. Martinez. 65 T Lahmen, R Gibern, J Thorps, S Simport. 10 Walcot.
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Rugby League

Rughy Union The boxing promoter Frank Warren, who has been a major investor in the Courage League Two promotion chases Bedford, has taken over as chairman of the club from fan Bullerwell.

A INTERNATIONALS: Ireland A 30 England A 44 (at Damybrook, Dublis).
UNDER-21, INTERNATIONALS: Inland 28 England 27 (at Gregotos, Co Wiskow).

Smooleer'

Interpersional OPEN (Aberdoos) First round
(Transdey): T Drugo (Malta) b. J Prince (N M) 52: P Wykes (Brig) for R Invier (Brig) 5-2; C Smell
(Sco) bt B Smelton (Sco) 5-4, (Yeekershey): S Lee
(Brig) bx N Malter (Brig) 5-2; S Jerose (Brig) bx J
Moodmen (Brig) 5-3; D Narrols (Brig) bx 2 Morgan
(Brig) 5-3; A Rose (Brig) bx J Fegusoo (Brig) 5-3.

un (usy ot J timble (US) 6-3 7-6.
DUBAN MEDITA OPEN Second round (Themshay):
B Becker (Gor) ot S Smile (Nex) 7-5 6-1; J Couner (US) fot A Costa (Sb) 6-2 6-3. Quantar-Basis
(restanting): J Nous (Cr. Rop) ot R (Regor) (Nex)
6-2 6-2; J Couner (US) bt W Farmira (SA) 6-2
7-5.

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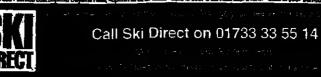
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sport

Happy hooker Mark Regan takes on Ireland, page 29



FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

Chris Kamara puts skill

before brawn, page 30

Hard man gone soft

Rodber must take control for England

reports from Dublin

The kitchen-sink theory of rugby pays dividends only when key opponents start washing their hands of all responsibility. If Jack Rowell, the England coach, has spent the last five days warning his players what to expect when they square up to an increasingly positive Irish side in Dublin this afternoon, it is a safe bet that be has concentrated most of his attention on two players who already know the score.

If ever there was a time for Jason Leonard, the Harlequins prop. and Tim Rodber, the Northampton No 3, to stand up and be counted amid the flying crockery, this is it. Together with Martin Johnson, their equally influential comrade in the second row, they have first-hand experience of the Emerald Isle furies and given the fact that Lansdowne Road is virgin territory for two-thirds of today's England line-up, that makes them central to Rowell's strategy. Leonard's role has been a

matter of public debate all week. Rowell asked his pack leader to address the squad when it convened on Tuesday; in much the same way as Will Carling gave a special insight on the psychology of playing the Scots a fortnight back, the long-serving Quins player's conclusive frontrow performance in Dublin two years ago gave him added authority in the build-up to the latest Five Nations encounter. Certainly, his individual contest with Nick Popplewell, who means something very similar to the Irish in terms of expertise and know-how, will be of considerable significance.

Yet it is Rodber who needs cessor in the middle of the England hack row. Dean Richards, was largely responsihle for the two victories in Ire-

N Hogan .

minutes he turned in at Lansdowne Road during the Grand Slam campaign of 1991 has a secure place in the annals - and it bas not escaped anyone's no-tice that Rodber's direct rival this afternoon is the man Leicester supporters have chris-tened the "new Deano".

Eric Miller, just 21 but armed with the cool brain and the close-quarter nous of the most hattle-hardened veteran, is on such a hot streak that his opponents tend to finish games with first-degree burns. Rather like Richards, he has an uncanny ability to control the dy-namics of the most torrid forward exchanges. Unlike Richards, he also possesses a

		-				
England1	1	0	0	41	13	2
France,1	1	0	0	32	15	2
Wates2	1	0	1	59	45	2
treland2	1	0	1	41	57	2
Scotland 2	0	Ω	2	32	75	0
Remaining (Today: Irelat downe Road) des Princes), 1 March: En enham); Scot field),	nd ; Fr	v f	Eng e v	Wale	S (P	arc ~v.
tieldi,						

Five Nations table

wide game; as Les Cusworth, England's assistant coach and a Leicester man from head to toe, said yesterday: "He really is one hell of a talent."

A serious test for Rodber, then, made all the more difficult by the morale-sapping criticism he has been forced to endure this week. Both Richards and Peter Winterbottom, outstanding England loose forwards of the immediate past. have questioned the wisdom of picking the Northampton captain ahead of Ben Clarke in a revamped back row and since to deliver the biggest game of neither man could he fairly deall. His most illustrious prede-scribed as a rent-a-quote merchant, the barbs will have found their mark.

At least Rowell, who watched Rodber produce the goods here land this decade - the last 20 two years ago when, as Eng-

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Last Saturday's solution

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

IRELAND V ENGLAND

at Lansdowne Road, Dublin

arlegums, capt 15 T Stimpson

Northampton 13 W Carling.

Malone 12 P De Glanville

Ballymena 11 7 Underwood

. Bristol 9 A Gomarsall

1 G Rowntree

4 M Johnson

7 RHW.

Lansdowne 10 P Grayson

London Insh 5 S Shaw.

Newcastle

No 3223. Salarday 15 February

land's blind-side flanker, be took the fight to the Irish with muscular effect, is in no doubt that be has the right man. "Tim gives us control at the back of the scrum, be is strong enough in possession to allow others to play off him and he gives us a very potent option at the line-out, which is essential," the coach said. "The way I see it, we have the right balance."

England are fully aware of

the need to grab the game by the scruff of the neck. In Rowell's words, the approach will be to "absorb and impose", but Phil de Glanville, his captain, put it more bluntly this week when be said: "We know all about the Irish in the first 20 minutes, when their endeavour is at its height and the storm is there to be weathered. There is no question of it being anything other than fierce, but equally there is no question of us sitting back and waiting for things to happen. If we don't want to find ourselves points down, we'll have to take our game to them."

De Glanville is convinced that Eric Elwood, the Irish outside-half, will open proceedings with an aerial bombardment aimed not so much at Tim Stimpson, who is a rock under the high hall, but at the more vulnerable wings, Tony Under-wood and Jon Sleightholme. Our back three accept that they face a test, the like of which they will oot have eocountered before. They've been practising high takes all week, but it's always more difficult to handle this sort of assault in a game situation and it's up to each and every one of us to get back there

and support them. "The whole match will he a massive physical confrontation. The Irish have no frailties in that department - from one to 15, they will threaten us physically - so I am looking for control, discipline and total commitment."

If De Glanville does not receive all that and more from his players, England will undoubtedly be forced to swallow a re-peat dose of 1993, when they were hlown to all points of the compass by an Irish side that redefined the meaning of the word "rampant". But the flurry of tries in the final quarter of the match against Scotland eased many of the terrors circulating around an inexperienced England camp and provided the main men do their stuff in the eve of the storm, the kitchen sink should miss its target.

A female punter has wagered £46,000, thought to be the largest amount ever staked on a rugby match, on England defeating Ireland. The same woman sucessfully staked £18,000 on England heating Scotland a fortnight ago and stands to collect over £15,000 if her side win today at

ACROSS

Helps to avoid cases of mistaken identity (7, 6)

Ashdown honoured in Nikon Press Awards



David Ashdown, the Independent's Chief Sports Photographer, has been highly commended in the Nikon Press Awards. Ashdown was runner-up in the Sports Photographer of the Year category, which was won by David Johner of the Popperfoto agency. Ashdown's portfolio of five photographs included the above picture of the British high jumper Steve Smith on his way to winning a bronze medal in last summer's Olympic Games in Atlanta

that can come back as quickly

as it goes. He is well aware of

on, and there are also a couple

of little technical things which

too quick today, and as a con-

sequence he lost a touch of con-

trol. We are all working with

player himself who has to go out

there and perform on the park."

England's management, though admitting they misread

the pitcb conditions, pro-

nounced themselves happy with

New Zealand's first-day total.

was very green, and still a hit

damp this morning. We have

done well bowling first in oth-

er games in New Zealand, and

we thought we could get among

them early on especially after winning so well in the second Test in Wellington. It didn't

quite happen, but we stuck at

to move, having played second

fiddle to the Bergkamp-Wright

partnership.
"Although I enjoyed it at Highbury and learned a lot, 1

can't really say I am sorry to

leave. My time there was a bit

up and down," said Hartson,

who has scored four goals in 18

He added that West Ham.

who have linked the fee to ap-

great future" and can stay up.

West Ham's previous record

Although England fans will

pearance and goals, bave a

"I know it's down to me to get

fee was £2.4m for the Roman-

ian striker Florin Raducioiu.

not thank him for it, Chelsea's

Ruud Gullit is to make anoth-

er bid for the Italian captain,

Paolo Maldini. Gullit was quot-

ed a world record £17m by Mi-

lan a month ago, but he believes

recent acquisitions have left

them with a top-heavy squad.

question," said a cautious Gul-

lit, who will broach the subject

when Chelsea visit Milan in a

Liverpool 'nursery', page 31

friendly next week.

"If that's the money they're

now back with Espanyol

the goals to make it happen."

starts this season.

First day's play, page28

Emburey added: "The pitch

"I felt he tried to bowl a hit

are on his mind.

Emburey praises Croft

Robert Croft was told he could have a 10-year Test career after starring once again for England yesterday. The 26-year old Glamorgan off-spinner has been the higgest success story of this winter's campaign in Zimhabwe and New Zealand and has proved he can be the long-term successor to John Emburey.

After watching Croft's 3 for 49 from 24 overs to keep England in contention on the first day of the final Test in Christchurch, Emburey led the appreciation for the Welshman's growing stature.

Emburey, England's assistant coach, played the last of his 64 Tests in 1995 after a 19-year international career. "The ball didn't seam as much as we thought and there wasn't much swing either," he said. "But Crofty has bowled better on this lour than I've ever seen him. He's definitely matured and be could be an England spinner for another 10 or 12 years. Most spinners have their best

making an early breakthrough he's a bigger spinner of the ball with the new ball. than I was. He also has a good Emburey said: "He's lacking change of pace and flights it well. rhythm at the moment, but

"And, when he's needed to push the hall through a bit quicker such as during the the areas he needs to improve Wellington Test he has not lost his spin or the late dip which that imparts on the ball." Croft's tactics against Stephen

Fleming, New Zealand's top player, have illustrated just how dependable and effective a bowler he has become after just four Test appearances. Operating from over the wick-

et against him, Croft spun the ball just enough and cramped Fleming's style and eventually grabbed the key wicket of the day for England by having him stumped by Alec Stewart.

Fleming said: "I perhaps came down the pitch a little too early and be held it back a bit. I knew I was out, but at the time I felt we needed to be more aggressive and try to get our to-tal up to around 250. We have to be positive out there because we have to win the game to

Dominic Cork, however, is still struggling for form despite

In Monday's 20-page sports section

*Even the president told me he wanted me to play a big part in the future of South Africa, but I'm not so sure about politics. I'm still just a student at the university of

François Pienaar talks to lan Stafford



him and talking with him, but 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford at the end of the day it is the Oldham. Back usues avallable from Historic Newspapers, 01988 540370." Saturday 15 Tehnasiv 1947 Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office -

The Eurostar **Dictionary** of Flying.

Air Pressure

Air Turbulence

Airline

check-in.

Scrambling to disembark.

Getting to

Queue to

airport on time.

Airsickness

Realising that you should have gone by

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hassles of flying. Look us up next time you need to travel there.

years later in their careers.

DOWN

10 Chief wanting macho type to accept promotion instance (4) Party seated in a long, 11 Road works still around

from time immemorial (4.3) 12 Flug, one knight's brought back (4) 13 River visible from stronghold on height (5)
14 In south of France, it's
stupid going back to Italy

17 Gambling activity involv-ing criminal mob a good 9

deal, on reflection (7) 18 Quaint old chapel char-acteristic of important 19 Rule by the grace of God

in Judea, perhaps (7)

22 Fluttering in (7)

24 A king enters church in Genoa, for instance (4) 25 Award-winning broadcast is carrious (5) Weapon left in bed (4)

backward British tribe revealed (7) Meeting about higher French island (7) 31 They're used to evaluate

Union leader could identify a potentially danger-ous element (7) Injured in rugby match for

flimsy craft (7)
5 First gear (7) Young man from London area, by the sound of it (4) Showing a certain imma-turity, student upset his

dad (7) Whereby good wishes are conveyed from presentday queen, perhaps? (9, 4) Illumination to be found in Sobo club? (5, 8)

15 Huge crowd in store, reportedly (5) 16 Value certain features of

new orthodoxy (5) 20 Judge given miniaturised instrument on wooden

base - a record player (7) 21 Ceramic article without 22 Wrought hrazier is unusu-

23 Worship initially involving wrinkly oldies? (7) 27 Leading parade that's heading off (4) 28 Caribbean country about

to introduce unemploy-

ment benefit (4)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened used Thursday receive hardbacked capies of the new Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018. The Independent, I Canada Square. Canary Wharf. London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: John Patrick, London E19; Philip Noukes, Lyme Regis; Jo Stem, Fleet; Daphne Ripley, Skipton: C Lulkam, Codyton.

West Ham capture Hartson for £5m

Football

NICK DUXBURY

mains to be seen.

The Hammers - frantic to preserve their Premiership status at seemingly any cost - offered the Welsh international a five-year contract 10 days after signing Paul Kitson from Newcastle United for £2.3m. Both make their debuts at Derby County today.

Peter Storrie, the Hammers managing director, had promised West Ham supporters another player who would be able to "spin off" Kitson. The spin-off for Hartson was another nice little earner, adding to the £125,000 he picked up when George Graham spent 57.5m to sign him from Luton still talking about it's out of the

new manager, Harry Redknapp, as "the centre-forward for this

Good business for John Hartson yesterday saw the 21-yearold Arsenal striker pick up £250,000 as his cut of the fee that took him from north to east London. Whether paying a club-record £5m was good husiness for West Ham United re-

Town two years ago. Hartson, described by his

club way into the foresceable fu-

fells once ter allian melakasa the of height t he mal in a free egy ya. and happ

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